The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life-long commitment to human rights, international cooperation, and public service.

The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development and related academic study and cultural exchange. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which assigns Fellows to a host university based upon each Fellow’s interests and needs. This year’s program includes 187 Fellows from 94 countries, who are being hosted by 17 universities throughout the United States.

The goals of the Humphrey Fellowship Program at the University of Minnesota Law School are:

- to enable each Fellow to foster personal and professional growth and prepare the Fellow for leadership roles in his or her country;
- to provide opportunities for a rich exchange of information among Fellows, and also between Fellows and host families, community members, professional colleagues, and students and faculty at the University; and
- to help Fellows understand as broadly and deeply as possible U.S. cultural, political, legal, and economic systems.

Each year Humphrey Fellows come to the University of Minnesota Law School to pursue studies and professional development work in the areas of human rights, law, and law enforcement.

Since 1981, the University of Minnesota has hosted 336 Humphrey Fellows from 133 countries who have specialized in a wide array of professional fields, including agricultural science, business and management, corrections, finance, foreign affairs, government, human resources, human rights, human trafficking, international trade, journalism, law enforcement, mass communication, mediation and arbitration, medicine, policing public administration, public health, rule of law, and social work.

The Human Rights Center, the Law School, and the University of Minnesota are working together to fulfill the program goals for each of the Fellows. Collaboration among University faculty, alumni, an extensive network of affiliated professionals, host families, and the Fellows creates an extraordinary environment for cross-cultural learning. The Human Rights Center also collaborates with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, which is hosting 15 Humphrey Fellows in Public Administration this year.

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The Human Rights Center and The University of Minnesota Law School
Zhixuan Guo  
China  
Dr. Guo is an attorney, chief arbitrator, professor, and director of the Center for Law Application at Tsinghua University. His main interest is in conducting comparative legal research on the theory and practice of alternative dispute resolution, civil procedure, evidence, and human rights law. He has authored more than twenty publications in China on research in these fields. He is attempting to understand how China can learn and adopt beneficial systems from U.S. legal theory and practice. Dr. Guo hopes to be able to make a persuasive case in his own country for the importance of making improvements in alternative dispute resolution. At present, Chinese scholars are studying alternative dispute resolution, but it is not practiced in China. Dr. Guo hopes someday to establish a center for alternative dispute resolution in China. During his fellowship year, he hopes to communicate with U.S. researchers, educators, and practitioners in the fields of human rights and alternative dispute resolution.

Marie Chantal Koffi  
Côte d’Ivoire  
Ms. Koffi is a judge, with past experience as a prosecutor, and has been a deputy in the Youth Administration of the Department of Justice in Abidjan since 2001. She is the author of several studies who are in circulation and who has written several articles. She has authored several books in the areas of human rights, authors reports for her Department, and is a human rights educator with a focus on children’s and women’s rights. She also coordinates work against child trafficking and is the principal author on this topic. During the Ivoirian Crisis, women and children were exposed to sexual violence and gender inequality, and children were jaded for almost anything. She hopes that her Humphrey experience will help her to resolve some of the many ongoing issues in the Ivory Coast. Gender equality and children’s rights are her main concern and she hopes that working with human rights educators here in the U.S. will further her goals.

Grzegorz Lewicki  
Poland  
Mr. Lewicki holds degrees in law from the University of Białystok in Poland and in sociology from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom and has worked in the field of human rights since 2002. He also holds advanced graduate certificates in foreign affairs service from Warsaw School of Economics in Poland and in human rights from Helsinki Foundation of Human Rights in Poland. Mr. Lewicki is a member of the Polish Legislative Associations. As a lawyer in the Polish Ministry of Justice, he drafts government responses to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. He served as an election observer on several missions organized by the European Union, organizations of the Council of Europe, and other organizations. He is currently completing his Human Rights Ph.D., focusing on the role of free and fair elections. During his fellowship year, his major areas of interest are international human rights, criminal law, the rights of incarcerated persons, crisis management, public security, and election rights. In addition, Mr. Lewicki hopes to improve his leadership and management skills.

Oteiza Ahmed Merhebi  
Lebanon  
Ms. Merhebi has been committed to public service since 1992, working as a lawyer. She is an active member of both the North Lebanon Bar Association and the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering. She is a founding member of the Arabic Women Lawyers’ Association. As an educator, she spreads human rights awareness in schools and universities. She hopes to expand her knowledge and skills during her fellowship year in order somehow to improve the human rights climate of Lebanese society.

Carmen Elena Molina  
El Salvador  
Ms. Molina holds two bachelor’s degrees, in law and in psychology. She is a judge in Family Court in San Salvador. She also serves as consultant to the Congress in matters relating to women and family. She has worked with various organizations in her country, such as the Women Lawyers Association and the Salvadoran Judges Association. She is involved in the protection of children’s rights and serves on multidisciplinary teams in family court cases. She also conducts police department training to raise awareness with regard to family issues. Ms. Molina has collaborated with the Supreme Court of El Salvador as a contributor to its journals. She has presented at numerous law conferences in her country. Additionally she has taught civil and family law in various universities. She works with leaders of her community in order to prevent domestic violence and child abuse. She has made appearances on television and radio programs to discuss these issues. During her fellowship year, Ms. Molina would like to learn more about family’s services in the United States and order to introduce new ideas and create community programs that will impact her community.