



# Leonardo da Vinci Fellowship Research Grant Program

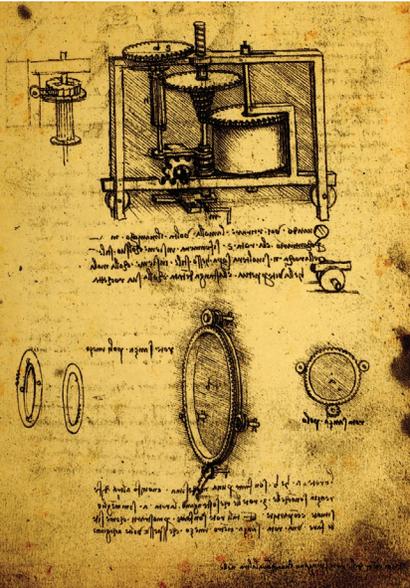
*“The noblest  
pleasure is  
the joy of  
understanding.”*

— Leonardo da Vinci

## Substantial Grants for Research in Intellectual Property Law

The Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property (CPIP) at George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School is accepting grant proposals for research projects in intellectual property (IP) law. Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

CPIP is an academic center dedicated to the scholarly analysis of IP rights and the technological, creative, and commercial innovation they facilitate. Through conferences, roundtables, scholarship grants, fellowship programs, and other academic and policy events, CPIP promotes a balanced discussion about IP rights and their fundamental role in securing the creative innovation that drives free markets and flourishing economies.



## PROGRAM DETAILS

Proposed research topics can be in any IP or IP-related field, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, or rights of publicity, among others. The research proposals can address any topic or issue within these fields, providing economic, philosophical, historical, scientific, or doctrinal analysis, among others.

Proposals are reviewed by a committee of academics with broad knowledge and experience in IP law. The Grant Committee reviews each submission for its quality as an academic research project, considering such issues as novelty of the research topic, viability of the thesis, and contribution to the diversity of academic and public discourse about IP policy.

Any scholar may apply. Leonardo da Vinci Grants are not restricted to full-time, tenure-track, or tenured law professors. Grants are awarded to professors in any field or to individuals working outside of official academic institutions who wish to conduct scholarly research. For instance, graduate students, visiting associate professors, policy analysts, and lawyers have all applied for Leonardo da Vinci Grants in the past.

Grant recipients will have additional opportunities to present their research at CPIP's conferences and events. CPIP will also work with Leonardo da Vinci Fellows to publicize and promote their work to the scholarly and policy communities through essays, teleforums, panel discussions, and other programs.

Grant amounts are in the four- to five-figure range and are determined based on several factors, including, among others:

- The nature and scope of the proposed research project and resulting work-product (e.g., essay, article, book, or book chapter)
- Whether the project requires data collection or experiments
- The timeliness and relevance of the research project

Amounts available for grants may vary from year to year, depending on the quantity and quality of proposals and the available funding.

Leonardo da Vinci Fellows will receive a portion of the grant following approval of the research project and the remaining amount upon acceptance of the research paper (or article, book, etc.). Funded papers must be submitted for publication.

*“The book of  
the science of  
mechanics must  
precede the  
book of useful  
inventions.”*

— Leonardo da Vinci

## POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS

The following is a list of potential research topics based on empirical and theoretical gaps in the scholarly literature about IP rights, as identified by the Grant Committee. This list is not exhaustive and is merely offered to highlight several areas of research that are ripe for scholarly contributions. Scholars should feel free to submit grant proposals outside of the topics identified below.

- **The legal and economic history of IP rights:**
  - Analyses of the connection between IP rights and the political ideals of liberty and democracy
  - Comparative analyses of past and current legislative proposals and their effect on IP rights and the well-being of inventors, authors, and the innovative and creative industries
- **The effects of infringement on IP owners:**
  - The economic costs of infringement to IP owners, including the cost of enforcement
  - The legal and economic effects of infringement on licensing negotiations for patents, copyrights and other IP rights
- **Competition policy and intellectual property rights:**
  - The historical origins, as well as the actual operations and practices, of standard-setting organizations and their underlying contractual commitments, such as FRAND
- **Remedies for IP infringement:**
  - The role of injunctions in bilateral licensing negotiations
  - The historical and theoretical foundation for the “hypothetical negotiation” in the determination of patent damages awards
  - Analysis of “reasonable royalty” methodologies in awarding patent damages, including its historical foundations and its economic impact
  - The impact of judicial and administrative regulation of royalty rates on economic incentives to invest in the innovative and creative industries
- **Patents and litigation**
  - Cross-industry analysis of the frequency of patent clearance searches at the corporate level and the impact of patent clearance searches on litigation and corporate behavior
  - The efficiencies and trade-offs of ex post litigation vs. ex ante regulation
  - The nexus between separation of powers, patent rights, and litigation reform
  - The role of litigation in America’s innovation economy
- **The problem of copyright infringement**
  - The role of intermediaries in distributing copyrighted works and preventing piracy
  - Updating the notice-and-takedown system to reflect current technological and market realities
- **The effects of pervasive compulsory licensing and non-market price-setting on the economics and political economy of the creative industries**
- **The importance of copyright to creators, examining both monetary and non-monetary rights**
- **The moral case for copyright and patent rights**

*“He who loves  
practice without  
theory is like the  
sailor who boards  
ship without a  
rudder and compass  
and never knows  
where he may cast.”*

— Leonardo da Vinci



*“The artist sees  
what others  
only catch a  
glimpse of.”*

— Leonardo da Vinci

## APPLICATION DETAILS

To apply for a Leonardo da Vinci Fellowship Research Grant, please email your proposal to [scholar@gmu.edu](mailto:scholar@gmu.edu). All proposals are treated confidentially.

*There is no deadline.* Proposals are accepted for review by the Grant Committee on a rolling basis throughout the calendar year.

Applications should include the following:

- (1) A précis of no fewer than 700 words that identifies:
  - The subject matter of the research
  - The thesis asserted or hypothesis to be tested
  - The motivation for the project, identifying how this project fills a current gap in the literature or otherwise addresses a compelling research question
  - The methodology to be employed
  - A brief summary of the supporting analysis
  - If you wish, you may also include other things, such as an outline, a table of contents, or results of pilot studies
- (2) A proposed budget, with a brief justification
- (3) A copy of your CV or resume
- (4) A list of prior publications (if not part of resume)

*Please submit the entire application as a single PDF file, titled: “Last Name, First Name – da Vinci Proposal – date*

**Please note:** Expenses not covered by the research grant include but are not limited to: general living and home expenses such as rent, mortgage payments, childcare, storage, etc., (pre-approved travel requiring a short stay is fine), salary, benefits, insurance, tuition fees, institutional overhead/support, expenses of non-project personnel such as family, and expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the grant. Please provide a budget only for the items and amounts you are requesting from CPIP. It is important to include a detailed breakdown, showing how you estimated expenses. If your project is dependent on funding from more than one source, you should include a brief description of the items not covered in your CPIP budget together with the cost of these items. You should indicate in your budget whether your project will be feasible if this additional support is not forthcoming.



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