

LAJC Seeks Equal Justice Works Housing Program HOUSING ORGANIZERS

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

LAJC is a nationally-recognized anti-poverty non-profit committed to battling poverty and injustice through individual legal representation, group and class action litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy, and media relations. From its offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church, LAJC is a fierce advocate for low-income clients and communities in Central and Northern Virginia, and its work broadly impacts the entire state. Just in the past year, our team of attorneys and organizers won a class-wide injunction ordering healthcare reforms in a women's prison, a national settlement providing new avenues for relief to over 400 traumatized asylum-seekers whose children were taken from them at the border, worked successfully in partnership with community leaders to demand police accountability, and won major legislative reforms regulating school policing.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services under four key program areas: Civil Rights & Racial Justice, Economic Justice, JustChildren, and Immigrant Advocacy. LAJC boldly tackles issues of systemic injustice and aims to raise public and policymaker awareness of some of the most pressing challenges facing low-income Virginia residents. For more information, visit www.justice4all.org.

About the Position

The *Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Program* is a new collaboration of Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC), Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS), and Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC). As part of the collaboration, Legal Aid Justice Center seeks two (2) organizers to work on a two-year housing organizing project. Specifically, the Housing Organizers will involve low-income people in fighting a variety of injustices related to housing instability and involuntary displacement in the Greater Richmond Region, particularly due to eviction. The Organizers will also collaborate with the six (6) Housing Justice Program Attorney Fellows and their host organizations to fight for housing justice in Virginia.

Responsibilities include:

- Engaging in outreach and public education around housing justice issues with affected communities and allies, including leadership development among tenants and other impacted community members
- Information gathering regarding housing issues of importance to Richmond communities directly impacted by economic and racial injustice
- Identifying and developing leadership among low-income residents and supporting tenant-led groups to win changes in laws and policies affecting housing
- Working with a team of housing attorneys at LAJC, CVLAS, and VPLC to develop and win impact campaigns

Required Qualifications

- Strong commitment to social, economic, and racial justice
- Demonstrated experience working with individuals and/or communities directly impacted by economic and racial injustice

- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team
- Access to reliable transportation, and willingness to travel statewide occasionally and to LAJC's other offices
- Sense of humor

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with many of the challenges facing low-income people living in Richmond
- Diverse economic, social, and/or cultural experiences
- Experience with organizing or advocacy specifically around housing injustice
- Ability to communicate in Spanish or another language is desirable but not required

Location

LAJC's Richmond office

Start Date

No later than June 3, 2019.

Salary

Salary is \$39,500.

Benefits

- Generous leave
- Excellent family health insurance

Application Instructions

Email a cover letter and resume to Brenda Castañeda, Legal Director of LAJC's Economic Justice Program, at [hiring@justice4all.org](mailto: hiring@justice4all.org). The cover letter should highlight experience in working with low-income individuals and communities, and any experience in organizing for change and reform, particularly on housing issues. The cover letter should also highlight any specialized skills, such as organizing experience, fluency in a second language, or technology skills.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, and candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Questions? Contact Brenda Castañeda, Legal Director, at [brenda@justice4all.org](mailto: brenda@justice4all.org) or 434-529-1849.

The Legal Aid Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, experiences, and communities to apply. The Legal Aid Justice Center is committed to strengthening the voices of our low-income clients, working in collaboration with community partners, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty. We strive to take on the issues that have broad impact on our client communities and to be responsive to client input. Recognizing the particular impact of racism on our clients and staff, we devote special attention to dismantling racial injustice. All applicants must be dedicated to working in and sustaining an environment that enables staff and clients to feel empowered, valued, respected, and safe. In reviewing applications, we look for evidence that applicants have experience and/or thoughtfulness in working with traditionally marginalized populations.