

SPANISH-SPEAKING CONSUMER LAW ATTORNEY

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 attorney will work out of our Falls Church office but will handle cases statewide. The attorney will also assist with the University of Virginia School of Law consumer clinic, a live-client clinic that handles defensive and affirmative consumer cases. For more information about the clinic, see: http://content.law.virginia.edu/news/2015_spr/consumer-clinic.htm.

The attorney will handle defensive and affirmative consumer law cases in Virginia state and federal court on behalf of low-income individuals and immigrants. Our primary areas of focus have been debt collection abuses, especially "zombie debt"; medical debt; debt settlement scams; constitutional violations in the collection of debts owed to government agencies; and the use of consumer protection laws in the landlord-tenant context. For example, we have brought various statewide class actions against debt collectors who abuse low-income tenants in seeking to collect rent debts, and we are currently bringing a statewide class action challenging the suspension of drivers' licenses for unpaid court fines. Our Falls Church office primarily serves immigrant clients, and also prioritizes consumer scams targeting immigrants on the basis of their immigration status.

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Required Qualifications

- A strong commitment to the rights of low-income immigrants;
- A level of Spanish language proficiency sufficient to represent monolingual Spanish-speaking clients without the aid of an interpreter;
- Membership in the Virginia bar, confirmed eligibility to waive in, pending July 2019 Virginia bar exam results, or a willingness to sit for the February 2020 Virginia bar;
- A demonstrated commitment to social justice and the rights of low-income consumers;
- Some previous exposure to litigation, whether through law school clinics, summer internships, or a judicial clerkship;
- Outstanding communication skills; and
- An ability to balance a variety of responsibilities with a healthy sense of humor.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working with migrant or immigrant communities;
- Some litigation experience in state or federal court, or a clerkship
- Diverse economic, social, and/or cultural experiences.

Location

LAJC's Falls Church office.

Start Date

As soon as possible.

Salary

Salary range is \$54,500 to \$64,500 based on years of relevant experience and LAJC's formal salary scale.

Benefits

Exceptional fringe benefits include generous leave, health, dental and optical insurance, 403(b) retirement plan, student loan repayment assistance, and a great work environment.

Application Instructions

Email a cover letter, resume, legal or advocacy writing sample, and three references to Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg at hire@justice4all.org.

The position will be open until filled.

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.