Health Justice Attorney (Charlottesville)

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

The Legal Aid Justice Center is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that partners with communities and clients to achieve justice by dismantling the systems that create and perpetuate poverty. Justice means racial justice, economic justice, and social justice.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services in four 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.

From offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church, LAJC fiercely advocates 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 advocates won a class-wide injunction ordering healthcare reforms in a women’s prison, secured 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.

About the Economic Justice Program

The Economic Justice Program (EJP) challenges the practices and systems that perpetuate, create or exacerbate poverty in the lives of low-income people and people of color, with a focus on developing impact advocacy built in partnership with clients and low-income community members.

About the Position

LAJC is seeking an attorney to join our EJP team in Charlottesville. The attorney will be responsible for developing a portfolio of health law case and campaign work aimed at identifying and addressing systemic health justice issues low-income populations in Central Virginia, and sometimes state-wide. The attorney will be expected to develop subject area expertise in health and public benefits law, but also identify and creatively address other areas of need affecting health justice in the community (for example, housing or immigration needs). The attorney is expected to develop and maintain relationships with health care providers and other public health professionals in the area, with an eye to identifying systemic issues and strengthening systems that prevent low-income communities or communities of color from accessing health care. Additionally, the attorney will co-teach up to eight law students in our Health and Disability Law Clinic, taught in conjunction with University of Virginia School of Law. The attorney will also supervise student volunteers from the UVA school of public health, and/or medical students or residents at UVA as they learn about community resources and social determinants of health.
Required Qualifications

- Mission-aligned experience (work or lived) partnering with and advocating in low-wealth communities and communities of color
- Ability to work and communicate effectively across lines of identity
- Ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively
- Experience teaching or supervising students or law clinics
- Ability to develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships with healthcare institutions, with an eye to systematically addressing social determinants of health
- Strong oral advocacy, research and writing skills
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule that may include evening and weekend events, as well as occasional travel

Preferred Qualifications

- Virginia bar license, eligible to waive into Virginia bar, or willing to sit for exam
- Mission-aligned experience (work or lived) advocating for health justice

Location

Charlottesville, Virginia but some travel may be necessary

Salary

Salary range is $48,000-$70,000 and is based on years of relevant experience and LAJC’s formal salary scale.

Benefits

- Generous leave
- Excellent family health, dental and vision insurance
- 403(b) retirement plan & loan repayment assistance
- Personal professional development budget & paid bar dues

Application Instructions

Email a cover letter, resume, three references, and a writing sample to Brenda Castañeda, Legal Director, at hiring@justice4all.org. The cover letter should highlight any experience (lived or worked) advocating for justice for people who experience marginalization because of their race or economic status and/or specialized skills, such as data analysis, technology skills, or language fluency.

Applications will start being reviewed immediately and on a rolling basis with an expectation that an offer will be made no later than April 15, 2020. Questions? Contact Brenda Castañeda, Legal Director, at 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.