

Workers' Rights Organizer Part-Time, Eastern Shore VA

About LAJC

The Legal Aid Justice Center 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 across Virginia, and its work broadly impacts the entire state. Recently, our team of attorneys and organizers 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.

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.

The Virginia Justice Project for Farm and Immigrant Workers is a project within our Immigrant Advocacy Program, and is funded primarily by a sub-grant from the federal Office for Victims of Crime (VOCA) and Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services to provide legal services and community legal education to farmworker and immigrant victims of crime, including workplace crimes such as sexual assault, labor trafficking, and criminal wage theft.

About the Position

LAJC seeks a Workers' Rights Organizer to work with farmworkers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia to fight exploitation and injustice and to build workers' power through grassroots organizing. This is a grant-funded, part-time (approximately 29 hr./week) position is currently funded through September 30, 2020, with the possibility of extension depending on availability of funding.

- Primary job duty of this position:
 - Seek out and identify agricultural workers on the Shore, and collaborate with local partners and farmworker team staff to distribute information about legal rights to and organize alongside workers
- Secondary duties of this position:
 - Client intakes, case work follow-up, client meetings, note-taking and associated duties
 - Seek out and visit labor camps or other sites where farmworkers live (maintaining social distancing and all necessary COVID precautions)
 - Communicate and establish relationships with community partners and potential clients
 - Facilitate the communication between farmworkers and attorneys or other staff
 - Assist in development of cases and provide support for litigation

Required Qualifications

- Demonstrated commitment to social justice, workers' rights, and immigrants' rights.
- Spanish fluency (enough to communicate with workers without interpreter); and, at minimum, limited English proficiency
- Willingness to find new ways to communicate and connect with clients and community partners.
- Willingness to travel throughout the Eastern Shore and, occasionally, to other locations across the Commonwealth, and to work nights and weekends as needed.
- Sufficient flexibility to meet changing needs of farmworker community and the farmworker advocacy team.
- Valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.
- High level of professionalism
- Culturally sensitive approach to diverse client community.

Preferred Qualifications

- Some experience working as an organizer, preferably with immigrant workers.
- Ability to balance a variety of responsibilities with a healthy sense of humor.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office

Location

Eastern Shore of Virginia

Start Date

July 1, 2020, with some flexibility

Pay

\$20/hour

Application Instructions

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Jason Yarashes at [hiring@justice4all.org](mailto: hiring@justice4all.org). Please include "Workers' Rights Organizer – Eastern Shore" in the subject line and identify in your cover letter or highlight in your resume your experience in working with diverse communities. Please also state the earliest date you would be available to start work. Applications will be reviewed, and interviews scheduled as soon as they are received, so please apply as soon as possible.

Questions? Contact Jason Yarashes, Lead Attorney and Program Coordinator of the Farmworker Program at jasony@justice4all.org or 503-430-4123.

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.

