

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Petersburg Office

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

The Legal Aid Justice Center is a nationally recognized nonprofit 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. 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, Youth Justice, 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

Legal Aid Justice Center seeks a Community Organizer to engage the greater Petersburg community via outreach, active listening, and information-gathering regarding housing, education, and criminal justice issues of importance to areas directly impacted by social, economic, and racial injustice.

Responsibilities include:

- Community outreach and education of LAJC's mission and programs
- Relationship building and partnership development with individuals and organizations that will advance positive responses and interventions to community needs
- Developing grassroots organizing strategies to close the justice gap in low-wealth communities
- Mobilizing community members to engage in community advocacy strategies
- Partnering with staff attorneys to address client needs
- Referring individuals to other community resources as appropriate

Required Qualifications

- Strong commitment to social, economic, and racial justice
- Experience with organizing or advocacy
- Demonstrated experience working with individuals and/or communities directly impacted by economic and racial injustice
- Strong familiarity with the Petersburg community
- 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

- Preferred Qualifications**
- Diverse economic, social, and/or cultural experiences
 - Ability to communicate in Spanish or another language is desirable
- Location** LAJC’s Petersburg office primary; Richmond office secondary
***Currently, all offices are closed to the public. This position will operate remotely until our offices resume in-person operation. ***
- Start Date** January 2021
- Salary** Salary range is \$45,000 to \$65,000 based on years of relevant experience and LAJC’s formal salary scale.
- Benefits**
- Generous leave
 - Excellent family health insurance
 - 403(b) pension plan
 - Personal professional development budget
- Application Instructions** Email a cover letter and resume to Sylvia Jones, Director of Professional Development, Richmond Office at hire@justice4all.org. If you’re able, please submit your application as a single PDF titled “[date submitted in yyyy.mm.dd format][last name][first name][position sought].” Please include “Petersburg Organizer” in the subject line.

The cover letter should highlight experience in working with low-income individuals and communities, connections to the greater Petersburg community, and any experience in organizing for change and reform and/or coalition building. The cover letter should also highlight any specialized skills, such as 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 Sylvia Jones at sylvia@justice4all.org or 804-643-1086.

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.