

## SUMMER 2022 LEGAL INTERNSHIP

### Legal Aid Justice Center

#### 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 Virginia. Just in the past year, we permanently repealed Virginia's driver's license suspension for court debt scheme, secured an injunction slashing the number of immigrants detained by ICE at the largest detention center in the Mid-Atlantic and passed a law giving Virginia oversight authority, won the nation's first COVID-specific, statewide, and enforceable workplace safety standards, passed legislation enabling communities to set up civilian oversight for law enforcement, and decriminalized school-based disorderly conduct, which was a leading contributor to the school-to-prison pipeline, especially for Black girls.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services under four key program areas: Civil Rights & Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Youth Justice, and Immigrant Advocacy. The **Civil Rights and Racial Justice Program (CRRJ)** works to end the criminalization of poverty in Virginia by exposing and addressing criminal legal system policies that target people because of poverty and race. The **Economic Justice Program (EJP)** provides assistance to individuals and families in Central Virginia who face legal dilemmas related to housing, public benefits, employment, healthcare, consumer protection, or the rights of the elderly, and engages in systematic advocacy with and on behalf of low-income people in these issue areas. The **Youth Justice Program (YJP)** partners with youth, their families, and their communities to achieve racial justice, social justice, and economic justice for all young people by dismantling systems that create and perpetuate poverty. Our **Immigrant Advocacy Program (IAP)** supports low-income immigrants across the state in their efforts to find justice and fair treatment through representation in legal proceedings, legal advice regarding their rights, helping them take steps to empower themselves and prepare for the worst, recovery of unpaid wages they have earned, combatting workplace and housing discrimination, and fighting for civil rights. Within IAP, the **Virginia Justice Project for Farm and Immigrant Workers** provides legal services, resources, and community legal education to low-income workers in remote areas of the state, including farmworkers and seafood workers, poultry and meatpacking workers, and other immigrant and migrant workers.

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](http://www.justice4all.org).

**About the Position**

Legal Aid Justice Center seeks a law student intern to join our team for Summer 2022. Depending on the office/program, interns typically have a wide variety of experiences, including carrying out legal research and writing, conducting intake interviews, interviewing clients and non-clients, advocating in administrative and courtroom settings and assisting in hearing preparation, engaging in policy research and advocacy, and organizing.

**Required Qualifications**

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.

- Current 1Ls and 2Ls are eligible to apply
- Minimum work commitment for all position is 400 hours (10 weeks x 40 hours/week)

**Location**

This role can be based in our Richmond, Charlottesville, or Falls Church offices. Occasional travel between offices will be required.

Applicants interested in working with the Civil Rights and Racial Justice Program must be willing to commit to working primarily in our Richmond office. The Immigrant Advocacy Program and Virginia Justice Project for Farm and Immigrant Workers prefers to recruit students who are proficient in Spanish. For applicants interested in the Virginia Justice Project for Farm and Immigrant Workers, preference will be given to those who are interested in engaging client communities in rural areas, and willing to undertake occasional travel to visit workers and community members.

**Application Deadline**

March 11, 2022. We accept applications on a rolling basis and encourage candidates to apply as soon as possible. Please direct questions to Nady Peralta, Attorney and Internship & Fellowship Coordinator, by email to [nady@justice4all.org](mailto:nady@justice4all.org).

**Salary**

This position is unpaid. However, LAJC will support the student's application to any funding opportunity identified by the student, including by providing letters of support.

**Application Instructions**

Email a cover letter and resume to Nady Peralta at [hiring@justice4all.org](mailto: hiring@justice4all.org). Applicants should specify the LAJC legal program(s) of interest and preferred office location. 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 "**[preferred office location] 2022 Legal Internship**" in the email subject.

*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.*