



Northwest Justice Project

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César E. Torres
Executive Director

Job Announcement Staff Attorney – Yakima Office

The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) offers a unique opportunity to join a mission driven organization serving the legal needs of low-income people and communities in the Central region of Washington State. Yakima sits at the Eastern foot of the Cascade Mountain range and includes diverse industries, affords rich cultural and recreational opportunities, and offers significant opportunity for professional growth and development within a larger statewide legal aid program.

NJP pursues its mission through legal representation, community partnerships, and education to combat injustice and promote the long-term well-being of low-income individuals, families, and communities throughout Washington. NJP seeks applications from qualified attorneys committed to supporting our mission through the work of our Yakima office. NJP's Yakima office serves Yakima and Kittitas counties. This is a full-time position.

NJP attorneys work together as part of a statewide law firm, and in partnership with other legal aid providers, to bring high quality civil representation to Washington's low income populations and communities. NJP attorneys are expected to provide counsel, representation and strategic engagement with client communities on a wide variety of substantive law issues that affect the poor. NJP's Yakima regional office uses a broad range of advocacy tools to promote justice and access to the courts, preserve low-income housing options, secure health and income opportunities, protect families and victims of crime, and to engage with client and community groups to secure the long-term well-being of the low income communities.

JOB DUTIES: The Yakima staff attorney will undertake a range of duties including, but not limited to:

- Work collaboratively with office team to provide day to day legal assistance and direct representation to eligible clients referred to the Yakima office in all relevant forums, including state, federal and tribal courts, administrative agencies and appellate courts.
- Use strategic methods and a broad range of advocacy tools in multiple forums to address high priority client needs, with particular focus on legal needs of persons and groups that experience special barriers to accessing civil legal services, including immigrants, youth, seniors, disabled persons, and other groups.
- Develop collaborative working relationships with a statewide network of advocates working on similar issues throughout the state and participate in advocacy task forces or work groups to address systemic issues that impact seniors, low-income persons and communities in Washington.
- Engage with client community and participate in legal education events for client groups, social and human services providers, justice system stakeholders, and serve as a

resource to other advocates on areas of current or acquired expertise. Utilize NJP's case management and timekeeping systems and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements and reporting needs.

- Help identify and develop on-line resources for use by attorneys and/or unrepresented litigants on matters within areas of expertise.

QUALIFICATIONS: Prefer prior experience handling all aspects of civil litigation with an emphasis on housing, public benefits and/or consumer issues that impact low-income persons. Experience in affirmative litigation in state or federal court and experience in addressing systemic issues is a plus. Must possess strong oral and written communication skills. Applicants should be culturally competent and have demonstrated experience working with low-income client communities, communities of color, limited English and persons with disabilities. Washington State Bar Association membership in good standing, the ability to acquire membership through reciprocity, or ability to take the next Washington bar exam is required. Civil legal aid and related advocacy experience is preferred. Spanish language proficiency is strongly preferred.

Demonstrated experience and/or connection to NJP's client communities is desired. The Northwest Justice Project is especially interested in qualified candidates whose professional, personal and/or service experience allow them to contribute to and support the legal aid community's commitment to race equity. Must be willing to be engaged with the community to be served.

Salary depends on experience. NJP offers an attractive benefits package and a comfortable work environment. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, current resume and writing sample to: Karen Holland at karenh@nwjustice.org. Letters of interest and subject line should clearly reference "Yakima Staff Attorney" position. Date of availability should be noted in cover letter. Include proficiency in languages other than English on the resume. **Application deadline: July 10, 2017.**

NJP is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and fosters an environment free of barriers and discriminatory practices. NJP actively promotes mutual respect, acceptance, teamwork and productivity. NJP is committed to maintaining an organization whose staff, Board and clients are diverse in background, experience, race, color, national origin, gender, age, religious reference, marital status, sexual orientation, sensory, mental or physical abilities, veteran status, and other qualities that strengthen the program while reinforcing its commitment to basic fairness. People of color, people who identify as transgender, lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and those with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Individuals needing a reasonable accommodation for the application or interview process or for more information about the project should contact Karen Holland at (206) 707-0802.