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Northwest Justice Project

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César E. Torres
Executive Director

Job Announcement

Staff Attorney – Crime Victims – Spokane/Colville

The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) seeks applications from qualified attorneys to work to address the collateral civil legal needs of persons who have been victims of crime. This position will involve a significant commitment (50-75%) to representing victims in domestic and family law cases. The ideal candidate also would be interested in and willing to pursue civil litigation in areas related to housing, consumer protection, public benefits and health care access, and other collateral impacts of victimization.

This position is one of several assigned to NJP general field service offices throughout the state. In conjunction with other NJP field staff lawyers, the Spokane VOCA attorney will provide a full-range of civil legal assistance and representation to crime victims with high priority collateral civil legal needs. The lawyer will provide limited assistance, including advice and brief services at domestic violence clinics, as well as representation in litigation, administrative procedures, and other legal matters as resources allow.

The position will work as part of a larger team within NJP and will collaborate as part of a broader team of attorneys serving within the Washington Alliance for Equal Justice. Applicants should have a desire to work with crime victims and with the agencies that serve them. The lawyer will identify, conduct outreach to, and collaborate closely with victim and other services agencies, law enforcement and others to identify and address the most pressing legal needs of crime victims in the region.

The Spokane service region includes Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman counties and the Colville, Kalispel, and Spokane reservations.

GENERAL JOB DUTIES:

- Work collaboratively with others to identify the most important problems that impact victims, their families, and their communities.
- Engage with clients and victim services providers to identify and seek individualized and systemic solutions to institutional barriers to preventing and addressing the adverse consequences of victimization, with particular focus on victim and family safety, protecting and preserving access to basic needs.



- Train victim services providers about the law and on drafting protection orders.
- Identify and engage with persons and groups that experience special barriers to accessing civil legal services, including immigrants, limited English speaking persons, seniors, veterans, children, and people with disabilities.
- Develop collaborative working relationships with a statewide network of advocates addressing similar and related issues throughout the state; participate in advocacy task forces or work groups to address systemic issues that arise in the context of crime victimization.
- 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 crime victim rights and consequential legal impacts arising from being a victim of crime.
- Support the work of NJP partners including the volunteer lawyers, private attorneys, other legal aid providers and interested parties and organizations addressing the legal needs of crime victims.

NJP has an organizational commitment to fight racism and to incorporate equity and inclusion in both the work we do and work environment we create. All staff are expected to uphold this commitment and approach their role with a desire to learn and grow in this area.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Member of the Washington Bar, licensed in a state bar to which Washington could grant reciprocity or willing and able to take next bar is required
- 3 years of legal experience in a legal aid or comparable practice preferred
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Attention to detail and willingness to develop and maintain systems to facilitate grant reporting and compliance requirements
- Able to develop and implement systems for case processing (e.g. referral, case triage and follow-up)
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse partners, client communities, law enforcement, health care providers, guardians, case managers, and others
- Cultural competency; especially with immigrants, crime victims, people with disabilities, limited English proficient persons, and seniors
- Overall commitment to low income populations will be evaluated for each candidate
- Preference given to those with direct or indirect experience working with crime victims, as well as immigrant persons
- Willingness to travel throughout the geographic service area of the Spokane office
- Conversational in Russian, Arabic, or Spanish a plus but not required

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.

COMPENSATION:

Based on experience and includes excellent benefits and great work environment.

This position is made possible by funding under the federal Victims of Crime Act provided through a sub-contract with the state Office of Civil Legal Aid.

TO APPLY:

Cover letter, resume, and writing sample should be sent to Karen Holland at karenh@nwjustice.org.

Cover letter and email subject line should clearly reference "VOCA Attorney – SPOKANE". Cover letter should include description of any past experience, personal or professional, with low income or other marginalized communities. Must be willing to be engaged with the community to be served.

Application materials should specifically identify examples of relevant work applicant has handled, including whether as lead or co-counsel, case management, training, CLE or other presentations on legal topics related to protection of crime victims, etc., recognitions and references.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably no later than October 15, 2018; applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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.