

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION

The Florida Justice Institute, Inc. (FJI), a nonprofit public interest law firm, seeks a full-time staff attorney in Miami to develop and litigate civil rights cases on behalf of incarcerated people to further our criminal justice reform efforts. The staff attorney will work and strategize with our team of experienced civil rights lawyers and staff to bring impact cases against the prison and jail systems in Florida, with the aim of reducing mass incarceration in our state. The litigation may involve claims addressing solitary confinement, medical and mental health care, disability access, other unconstitutional conditions of confinement, First Amendment issues (such as free speech, censorship, and religious freedom), and others. The staff attorney will be directly supervised by the Executive Director and will work with at least one other attorney.

Responsibilities

- Handle all phases of civil rights litigation, primarily in federal court. This will entail, at a minimum, building cases through interviews and document review; drafting complaints, motions, responses, memos, discovery requests and responses; conducting legal research; handling discovery; communicating with opposing counsel; working with experts; handling trials; and handling appeals if necessary.
- Evaluate and research requests for legal assistance.
- Coordinate and work with co-counsel.
- Some travel around Florida, including visiting clients and witnesses in prisons and jails, will likely be required.
- Conduct advocacy efforts related to criminal justice reform, possibly involving legislative advocacy
- Any other duties as assigned by the staff attorney's supervisor.

Qualifications

- A minimum of two years of litigation experience is required. Experience with federal civil rights litigation is preferred. Time spent clerking for a federal judge is acceptable as experience.
- Must have a demonstrated commitment to social justice, as well as a commitment to representing incarcerated persons and other poor and disenfranchised individuals, and an interest in the preservation and advancement of civil liberties and civil rights.
- Should understand and value racial equity as an organizational operating principle and be committed to continued learning on issues related to race, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Admitted to The Florida Bar or willing to take the next Florida Bar exam, or eligible for temporary admission under the Authorized Legal Aid Practitioners Rule (requiring 3 years of legal experience) and willing to take the next Florida Bar Exam.
- Must possess excellent legal research and writing skills, great communications skills, and a desire to work in a cooperative, collegial environment.
- Must be self-motivated and capable of complex analytical work.

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Salary/Benefits: Salary is competitive with other public interest law firms in the area and will be set depending on experience. FJI offers a superb benefits package including medical, dental, and life insurance; retirement; parking; and excellent working conditions in class A office space.

About FJI: Founded in 1978, FJI conducts civil rights litigation and advocacy primarily on behalf of those incarcerated in prisons and jails, with a focus on class actions and impact litigation. The types of cases include wrongful death, deliberate indifference to serious medical need, unconstitutional conditions of confinement, excessive force, failure to protect, First Amendment (including free speech, censorship, and religious freedom), disability discrimination, and others. FJI also conducts litigation for non-incarcerated victims of housing discrimination, disability discrimination, police misconduct, and engages in various other forms of impact litigation for Florida's poor and disenfranchised residents. FJI works collaboratively with other public interest law firms and legal services organizations.

Application: To apply, send a cover letter and resume in one PDF file via email to jpla@floridajusticeinstitute.org. No phone calls please. Due to the volume of applications expected, FJI cannot respond to each one. The position will remain open until filled.

FJI is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and formerly incarcerated persons are particularly encouraged to apply.