

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION
July 2020

The Florida Justice Institute, Inc. (FJI), a nonprofit public interest law firm, seeks a staff attorney 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 practitioners on FJI's active litigation addressing solitary confinement in the adult and juvenile prison systems, and on future litigation, which may involve claims addressing medical and mental health care, disability access, other unconstitutional conditions of confinement, First Amendment issues (such as free speech, censorship, and religious freedom), and more. Due to the COVID pandemic, the position will be fully remote, at least initially, and therefore the location is flexible.

Job Responsibilities

- Litigating class action cases on behalf of incarcerated people. This will entail, at a minimum, drafting memos, motions, responses, discovery requests, and correspondence with opposing counsel; conducting legal research; reviewing and coding documents produced in discovery; managing discovery responses and negotiations; working with experts; coordinating with co-counsel; and interviewing clients and witnesses.
- Depending on the progression of the COVID pandemic, other possible responsibilities include depositions, trials, and appeals; as well as investigating, researching, and building new potential litigation against Florida prisons and jails.
- Conducting 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 be admitted to the bar of any state. Depending on the scope of work performed and the progression of the COVID pandemic, the attorney may need to become admitted to the Florida Bar.
- 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.
- Must 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.
- Must be able to work remotely with a stable internet connection. A laptop will be provided if necessary.
- Must possess excellent legal research and writing skills, great communications skills, and a desire to work in a cooperative, collegial environment and as part of a large team.
- Must be self-motivated and capable of complex analytical work.

Salary/Benefits: Salary is competitive with other public interest law firms in Florida and will be set depending on experience. FJI offers an excellent benefits package that includes medical, dental, and life insurance; and a retirement plan.

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. 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, legal services organizations, and law firms to achieve widespread change in Florida's criminal justice system.

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.