

Youth, Rights & Justice

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Youth, Rights & Justice is seeking to hire a staff education attorney. YRJ is widely recognized as a leader in juvenile law in Oregon.

YRJ provides court-appointed representation of children, youth, and parents involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems—in both the trial and appellate courts. We also represent individual children and youth in school-related special education and discipline matters. On a larger scale, we work to improve the systems impacting our clients through legislative and administrative advocacy, class action litigation, publications, and training other lawyers and community partners.

The clients we serve are racially and culturally diverse and from low-income families. Many are experiencing abuse and neglect, living with disabilities, and recovering from trauma.

YRJ is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Approximately 80% of our budget is from contracted services, with 20% from philanthropic sources. A dedicated 15-member Board of Directors governs YRJ. Board members bring diverse knowledge and connections within Oregon's legal, business, nonprofit, and education communities.

We are committed to achieving a diverse workforce. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to status as a protected veteran or a qualified individual with a disability, or other protected status, such as race, religion, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status or age.

YRJ's benefits include medical, dental, vision, AD&D, STD, LTD, and life insurance. The organization has a 401(k) retirement plan and also offers paid vacation and sick time.

Staff Education Attorney Job Description

Status Classification: Regular full-time; exempt (salaried)

Salary Range: Starting salary of \$60,000 and up depending on relevant experience

Reports to: Supervising Attorneys

Date Posted: 5/04/2020

Summary: Seeking an education attorney to join Youth, Rights & Justice to provide comprehensive education advocacy to youth involved with the Multnomah County Juvenile Court.

Essential Functions:

1. Exercise good judgment and effectuate the best result for each client based on the facts of each case and the wishes of the client.
2. Represent children in a variety of settings regarding their educational rights including enrollment meetings, IEP meetings, 504 plan meetings, disciplinary hearings and due process hearings.

3. Pursue ongoing education and training in field and related topics by attending relevant Continuing Legal Education programs. Keep informed of current changes in juvenile and education law and related fields. Use resource materials appropriately.
4. Consult with and advise attorneys and staff on issues related to the educational rights of children; partner with attorneys and staff on development of an educational advocacy plans for children.
5. Explore and implement systemic educational advocacy where appropriate.
6. Create and submit reports to grantors regarding SchoolWorks program.
7. Support Development Team in fundraising efforts related to SchoolWorks program.
8. Effectively organize time to maximize effectiveness for clients and YRJ. Accurately maintain Defender Data, personal calendar, etc.
9. Maintain appropriately documented client e-files.
10. Effectively work with legal assistants, investigators and law clerks.
11. Work cooperatively with other YRJ attorneys and staff.
12. Provide coverage for other attorneys' cases when requested.
13. Be committed to YRJ's mission.
14. Perform other duties as assigned.

Required Skills and Experience:

- Be in good standing with the Oregon State Bar and admitted to practice in Oregon
- Excellent legal writing skills
- Strong knowledge base in the area of education and special education law. Experience handling special education and school disciplinary cases
- Experience training lawyers and others in the area of special education law.
- Legal experience representing clients in disputes
- Ability to work collaboratively, independently and to build and strengthen community partnerships

Preferred Experience:

- 3 or more years of experience in the areas of juvenile law and/or special education law
- Successful policy advocacy and/or system change work
- Trained in trauma-informed and culturally competent advocacy
- Lived experience as a member of an underrepresented population

Desired Skill:

- Bilingual. A salary differential is provided to attorneys who are fluent in a language spoken and written by YRJ clients.

Work Environment:

- The job operates in a professional office environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines.
- Reliable transportation to and from court, home visits, client meetings, etc. is required.

Physical Demands:

- This position requires sitting for periods of time and the ability to lift files, open filing cabinets and bend or stand as necessary.
- This position may require walking several blocks from a parking space to the courthouse or to the office.

Travel:

- Travel is sometimes necessary for this position.

To Apply: Please submit a cover letter, DEI statement, resume, references and legal writing sample by 5:00 pm PST on May 12, 2020 to jobs@youthrightsjustice.org.