

Youth, Rights & Justice

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Youth, Rights & Justice is seeking to hire a staff attorney. YRJ is widely recognized as a leader in juvenile law in Oregon. Our mission at Youth, Rights & Justice is to advance the rights of children, parents, and families through advocacy in the courts, schools, legislature, and community.

YRJ provides court-appointed representation of children and parents involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems—in both the trial and appellate courts. We also represent individual children 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 children 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. The parents we serve include those who are former foster children and are struggling to keep their families together.

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 offers paid vacation, 11 paid holidays including Juneteenth and paid sick time.

Staff Attorney Job Description

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

Salary Range: Starting salary of \$70, 218.84 and is commensurate with experience

Reports to: Supervising Attorneys

Date Posted: 8/19/2021

Summary: Seeking a juvenile defense attorney to join Youth, Rights & Justice to represent children, youth, and parents in the Multnomah County Juvenile Court.

Essential Functions:

- Exercise good judgment and effectuate the best result for each client based on the facts of each case and the wishes of the client.
- Vigorous motion practice, thorough investigation and research. Produce accurate well-researched memoranda for trial and motion practice.
- Explore alternative dispositions. Advise client appropriately regarding dispositional outcomes and alternatives.
- Pursue ongoing education and training in field and related topics by attending relevant Continuing Legal Education programs. Keep informed of current changes in juvenile law and related fields. Use resource materials appropriately.
- Effectively organize time to maximize effectiveness for clients and YRJ. Accurately maintain Defender Data, personal calendar, etc.

- Maintain appropriately documented client e-files.
- Effectively work with legal assistants, investigators and law clerks.
- Work cooperatively with other YRJ attorneys and staff.
- Provide coverage for other attorneys' cases when requested.
- Be committed to YRJ's mission.
- Other duties as assigned.

Required Skills and Experience:

- Be in good standing and admitted to practice in Oregon.
- Excellent legal writing skills.
- Experience handling dependency, delinquency, or criminal cases.
- Ability to work collaboratively, independently and to build and strengthen community partnerships.

Preferred Experience:

- Felony Qualified (through the Office of Public Defense Services) with a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.
- Education law or background.
- Trained in trauma-informed and culturally competent advocacy.
- Lived experience as a member of an underserved 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 Sept 8, 2021 via email to jobs@youthrightsjustice.org.