

Employment Opportunity Attorney

The Watsonville Law Center (WLC) provides free legal services in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties on California's beautiful Central Coast. We are seeking a licensed attorney to join our team as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow. You will take a leadership role in addressing access to employment and criminal record change (expungement) in our community. This project includes direct legal services, outreach and education, and multi-disciplinary collaboration with nonprofit, health care, and public agency partners.

Location: Primarily Watsonville, with occasional travel required in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and southern Santa Clara counties.

Based on Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps guidelines, the term of service will begin at latest October 24, 2016 and end October 2017. This is a one-year fellowship renewable for a second year.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Become the expert. We will support you with access to mentors, advising attorneys, and training opportunities. You must be eager to develop substantive and procedural expertise. Your subjects are criminal record change, court fees and fines, and related employment and consumer law.
- Work the case. Provide legal services including representation. Apply your legal skills to help people and achieve results. We will train you, but Bar membership is required. Your caseload will be primarily advice and brief appearances, with time reserved for impact and systems-change work.
- Build your craft. Learn to master case management, workflow planning, personal organization and professional practice skills. WLC is a process-driven office (now is the time to build good habits).
- Evangelize. Share your love of justice. We give you training and opportunity and you will provide workshops to clients, lead public outreach, and engage diverse professionals and partner agencies in your vision.
- Innovate and Lead. We will provide opportunities to collaborate with health care providers, nonprofits, and public agencies. You will network with other reentry advocates regionally and statewide to find and build best practices in legal services.

QUALIFICATIONS (tell us about these things in your resume and cover letter)

Required: Licensed to practice law in California.

Preferred:

- Spanish fluency (many of our clients speak Spanish)
- Professional Skills: your good reading, writing, and analytical skills are assumed; tell us your experience with law school clinics and legal aid, interviewing and counseling clients, professional writing, and other experience relevant to helping clients and producing high-quality casework.
- Record Change Experience: training will be provided, but we greatly prefer some prior experience in record change / expungement work, including reading criminal records, petitions for dismissal, criminal procedure, court fees and fines, and related work.

- Good client skills: experience interviewing and counseling clients, especially diverse clients, is preferred.
- Communication skills: ability to communicate with other professionals and advocates, and prior experience with multi-agency collaboration is helpful.
- Experience with diverse communities: experience in rural, low-income, immigrant, and diverse communities is preferred.
- Presentation skills: public speaking, workshops, and related experience.
- Bonus if you have experience teaching/training, facilitating meetings, technology skills, event planning, media and social media skills
- What are you proud of? Tell us about any skills and experience you are proud of and how you will use those skills to benefit the community. Our team is interested in candidates who can bring their entire experience to the practice of law.

Additional Information:

Please see <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/ameri-corps-legal-fellowships/eolc-faqs>

AmeriCorps' Rules for Eligibility

Fellows must meet the following AmeriCorps eligibility requirements:

- Fellows must have graduated from an Equal Justice Works member law school (all but a few law schools) and have taken the California Bar Exam.
- Fellows cannot have served more than three prior terms with other AmeriCorps programs, including the Equal Justice Works Summer Corps or Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps JD programs.
- Fellows must be U.S. Citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents.
- Fellows must pass criminal history background checks, which include the National Sex Offender Public Registry, a state background check in the state of service and state of application for service, and an FBI fingerprint-based criminal history check. Note that a criminal history is generally not a bar to serving as an AmeriCorps member. Every case is evaluated individually.

Compensation:

Compensation is \$43,500/year. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow's compensation consists of the following:

1. Living allowance of \$25,060
2. \$18,440 in supplemental benefits for housing and other allowable costs (please see Equal Justice Works website for details)

Other Benefits:

Medical benefits

\$5,755 AmeriCorps Legal Education Award upon successful completion of service (please see Equal Justice Works website for details)

Participation in Equal Justice Works training opportunities, as applicable

Payment of California State Bar dues

Substantive training and professional development

To Apply:

Applicants must be available to start employment no later than October 24, 2016.

Your application must include a cover letter, resume, and list of three professional references. (We will not contact references unless you are interviewed.)

Send your application by email in .pdf format to: adrianam@watsonvillelawcenter.org

Attention: EOLC Fellow Application

Please visit the Equal Justice Works for more information before applying:

www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/amicorps-legal-fellowships/apply

WLC values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer.

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