Legal Fellow

The Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA) seeks candidates with excellent written and oral communication skills and a keen interest in CJA's mission to apply for legal fellowships that would start on or around September 1, 2022.

CJA is an international human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious human rights abuses through innovative litigation, policy, and transitional justice strategies. CJA partners with victims and survivors in pursuit of truth, justice, and redress.

Our work has contributed to bringing human rights abusers to justice in U.S., foreign and international judicial forums, and has assisted in pushing forward national accountability efforts through collaboration with local partners. Our recent cases can be found here.

Overview

A fellowship at CJA gives an entry-level lawyer the opportunity to work for one to two years as a junior attorney with CJA, develop strong litigation skills, and hone a diversity of tools for human rights advocacy. Our fellows are an essential and valued part of our litigation team; they gain substantive knowledge in an environment that values effective mentorship and collaboration.

Ideal candidates are third-year law students, judicial clerks, U.S. LLM students, or recent law graduates with a demonstrated interest in international human rights law or international criminal law. Applicants must have excellent legal advocacy and writing skills, and must be willing to interact and build effective working relationships with members of CJA's key stakeholder groups, which include victim advocates, government actors, donors, volunteers, and private sector pro bono partners. A strong background in evidence and civil procedure provides a distinct advantage, as does foreign language competency. Currently, fluency in Spanish or Arabic are particularly welcome.

Candidates should come prepared with ideas for external funding sources, but CJA will work with selected candidates to identify appropriate sources of funding and develop proposals. The majority of fellowships at CJA in recent years have been funded by the fellows' law schools. While the candidate is expected to take the lead, CJA will assist the selected candidate in developing proposals, including specific projects, if appropriate.

Location

Anywhere in the United States. CJA's operations are fully remote, though its litigation staff is primarily based in the San Francisco Bay Area, where CJA maintains an office. Depending on local and federal public health guidance, staff located in the Bay Area may have opportunities to meet in person at our San Francisco office. There may also be periodic all-hands meetings, when CJA brings staff together at its San Francisco headquarters for a week-long in-person program.

Application

To apply, please submit **one consolidated PDF** containing: 1) a cover letter addressing your goals and interests in the position as well as potential funding sources, relevant deadlines, and expected remote location during your fellowship, 2) your resume, 3) law school transcript, and 4) the names and contacts for three professional references by e-mail to jobs@cja.org.

Refer to "Legal Fellow" in the subject line. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. We will begin reviewing applications starting October 4, 2021. We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those being interviewed will be contacted.

CJA is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse and inclusive work environment. People of color, women, people with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply.

Please note: CJA also seeks a fellow in Transitional Justice. While most applicants will apply to only one of these fellowship positions, applicants who wish to apply for both positions may do so. Those applicants should include a note regarding their dual application in the cover letters for each of the fellowship positions.

Posted: August 2021