



Abolitionist Lawyer: Staff Attorney

Position Overview

The conditions faced by those incarcerated in jails and prisons are frequently inhumane and in violation of constitutional standards. Inadequate to non-existent medical or mental health care, dangerous and extensive use of solitary confinement, excessive use of force, racism at every level of the system, discrimination against and abuse of people with disabilities, runaway use of pretrial detention, and other unlawful practices pose a threat to public health and public safety

The Staff Attorney will work with incarcerated clients and their communities and advocates to challenge these conditions and build power against the use of jails and prisons.

Responsibilities

- Litigate in federal courts.
- Working with ALC attorneys and co-counsel to manage a significant caseload, including major class action litigation.
- Drafting complaints, briefs, motions, and other legal filings.
- Frequent visits with clients and potential clients who are incarcerated.
- Collecting, organizing, and analyzing extensive interview data, discovery information, and other resources in furtherance of litigation and policy advocacy efforts.
- Lead investigations into conditions of confinement, including policies and practices regarding medical and mental health care, solitary confinement, use of force, disability justice, access to courts, and First Amendment/censorship issues.
- Develop and draft reports on human and constitutional rights issues related to investigations and litigation ALC is involved in.
- Commitment to an abolitionist politics and movement-lawyering approach to our work that seeks to replace punitive justice with healing justice, promotes decarceration and the elimination of the use of jails/prisons to deal with social problems, and centers the political agency and organizing activity of those individuals and communities most impacted by the criminal legal system.

Requirements

- Active license to practice law.
- 3 years litigation experience, preferably in federal court.
- Proficient writing ability, capable of clarity, efficiency, and analytical precision.
- Excellent legal research skills.



Salary and Benefits

The Staff Attorney will be based in ALC's Pittsburgh office. This is a full-time, salaried position with some evening and weekend hours required. This position has a three-month introductory period. The salary for this position is \$50,000 annually, with a health insurance benefit of up to \$400/month and 35 days (280hrs) of paid time off annually. Start date is January 1, 2020.

Reports to: Legal Director

Application Process

Please send your resume, two professional references, and a detailed cover letter explaining your interest in the position as a single PDF to info@abolitionistlawcenter.org. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, but candidates are encouraged to apply by November 20, 2019 to receive priority consideration. This position is open until filled.

Abolitionist Law Center is an equal opportunity employer. People of color, women, LGBTQI-GNC people, and formerly incarcerated people are strongly encouraged to apply.