JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Attorney, Transition Age Youth (TAY)  
Children’s Rights Project (CRP)

Public Counsel’s Children’s Rights Project (CRP) seeks a full-time staff attorney to join our transition age youth project, which provides direct legal representation to youth 13 to 24 on a variety of legal issues as well as engaging in policy work on issues affecting system-impacted youth.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Public Counsel is the largest pro bono public interest law firm in the country. Founded in 1970, it is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law and addressing economic, racial, and other inequities by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Public Counsel operates eight legal projects: Children’s Rights, Community Development, Consumer Rights, Homelessness Prevention, Immigrants’ Rights, Veterans’ Rights, the Audrey Irmas Project for Women & Girls’ Rights, and our impact litigation project, Opportunity Under Law. Public Counsel has a full-time staff of over 130. We seek to have a racially inclusive staff.

Public Counsel’s Children’s Rights Project (CRP) serves children, youth, and their families on a variety of legal issues, including education, probate legal guardianship, public benefits, and adoption. The TAY team is part of the larger Children’s Rights Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Transition Age Youth (TAY) team is a multidisciplinary team that works to ensure access to housing, education, benefits, health care, mental health services, and fundamental rights without discrimination for system-involved young people and to end the intergenerational cycle of system involvement. Our interdisciplinary team of lawyers, social workers, and advocates are engaged in the direct representation of young people as it relates to the collateral consequences of having system-involvement, including their right to parent, adult infractions, juvenile citations, access to DCFS and DPSS benefits, record sealing and expungements, and housing push-out. We represent young people ages 13 to 24, primarily Black and Latinx, who are currently or formerly system-involved or who are unhoused. Our direct representation
guides our work at a local and statewide level to challenge and change systems that perpetuate intergenerational system-involvement.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The TAY Staff Attorney will represent youth in court, in administrative proceedings, and through informal advocacy on a variety of substantive legal issues to remove barriers to stability and success as well as work with social work team members to ensure youth have access to needed social service supports, including long-term mentorship and case management programs. The TAY staff attorney will also engaged in extensive community education, developing Know Your Rights materials and presenting to youth and partner agencies on a variety of legal issues around the Los Angeles County. This position will primarily focus on direct representation of young people, but the attorney will have an opportunity to support the supervising attorney who engages in local and statewide coalitions to push for policy reform in areas affecting our client population.

**ESSENTIAL JOB SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Admitted to the California bar;

- Experience and/or desire to work with high-school and college aged young people and/or foster, probation, and other youth populations;

- Excellent organizational, case management, and analytical skills: ability to be detail-oriented, multi-task, set priorities, and work independently, but in close coordination with other staff;

- One to three years experience in legal advocacy

- Experience in dependency/delinquency court proceedings and/or legal issues affecting youth not required, but strongly preferred

- Experience working with individuals of diverse cultural, racial, geographic, and economic backgrounds including individuals with a history of military service, trauma, or criminal records;

- Ability to communicate in an empathetic and professional manner with supervisor, team members, and litigants;

- Commitment to social justice and the mission of Public Counsel.
START DATE AND COMPENSATION
This position is available immediately and is a full-time, exempt position. Salary is commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Continuous until position is filled.

TO APPLY
Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to:
Sharon Balmer Cartagena, Directing Attorney
Children’s Rights Project
Public Counsel
610 S. Ardmore Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005
Fax: 213/201-4755
Email: crpjob@publiccounsel.org

No phone calls please.

Public Counsel is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, political affiliation, condition of physical or mental disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, in accordance with requirements of Federal and State laws.

All qualified applicants with criminal histories will be considered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring.