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## **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 family law, adult infractions, juvenile citations, public benefits advocacy, including representing clients at administrative hearings, 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 be 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;
- Zero to three years of 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**

- Salary is commensurate with abilities and experience
- Immediate full-time, exempt position
- Public Counsel offers a competitive benefits package including: (1) medical, dental, and vision coverage with both HMO and PPO options, (2) the option to enroll in a Flexible Spending Account, (3) a 403(b) retirement plan with elective contribution and an employer contribution after a year of employment, and (4) employer-paid life insurance and disability plans.
- Public Counsel follows all emergency state and local orders arising from the current COVID-19 crisis. Though generally this position is office based, currently all staff must

work remotely from their homes. Public Counsel will assess when the physical office will reopen in a manner consistent with public health and local and state emergency orders.

## **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](mailto: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.*