

Youth Justice Attorney - San Francisco/Alameda County

Organization: Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) ensures fairness in the civil justice system for the most vulnerable members of our community. From Silicon Valley to Napa Valley, we help clients protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. Our clients include the working poor, families with children, foster youth, seniors, immigrants, veterans, and persons with disabilities. Through our regional county offices, our mobile advocacy clinics, and our nationally-recognized Legal Advice Line, BayLegal prevents domestic violence and sexual assault, increases economic stability, protects consumers, expands access to healthcare, and prevents homelessness. For our clients, BayLegal makes the difference between staying in poverty and thriving toward a brighter future.

Position: We are seeking a staff attorney to join our youth justice team. We are interested in candidates who are energetic, culturally competent and have a strong commitment to public interest and social justice advocacy to represent youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, often due to abuse or neglect. The attorney will focus on providing civil legal services designed to meet the individualized needs of homeless and trafficked youth. Advocacy will be across practice areas, including health access, benefits (e.g. foster care benefits, SSI, CalWORKs, and General Assistance), immigration, permanency, housing, foster care, reentry and education. Clients served by the homeless youth project experience high rates of sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect, and mental health related issues which the attorney will be expected to navigate in providing legal assistance. Our Youth Justice team is expected to run on-site legal clinics at youth shelters and meet with youth in a variety of locations.

Responsibilities include client interviews, negotiations with governmental agencies/opposing parties, research and writing, and representation at administrative and court proceedings. The attorney is expected to engage in outreach with social services, law enforcement, youth service providers, and other community organizations. The attorney will attend regular meetings at the Alameda County office, where the youth unit has its hub, but will work primarily with clients and stakeholders connected to San Francisco County.

Qualifications:

- California State Bar membership (will be considered if results pending); or admitted to practice in another state and eligible to practice in California for 3 years under the California State Bar rules for the Registered Legal Services Attorney Program (must pass CA bar at a later date).
- Strong commitment to youth justice issues and supporting and magnifying youth voice
- Experience interviewing and working with youth is preferred.
- Must be self-directed and be comfortable working in a fast paced, ever-changing environment
- Excellent communications skills, oral and written
- Bilingual skills are preferred but not required
- Demonstrated experience with youth benefits programs, working with youth, trafficking victims, and/or culturally diverse, low-income client populations
- Ability to work independently and as part of a dynamic team
- A valid driver's license and access to a car

Compensation and Benefits: Compensation is based on a competitive public interest salary scale. Generous benefits package includes medical, dental, and life insurance; long term disability; paid holiday, vacation, and sick leave; law school loan repayment; bilingual stipends; and 401k retirement plan.

Applications: Bay Area Legal Aid thrives on our diversity and we are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to building a culturally diverse workplace and strongly encourage women, persons of color, LGBTQ individuals, veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons from other underrepresented groups to apply. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue on a rolling basis, but applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, diversity statement (see BayLegal.org/employment for details) and list of references to: Human Resources Department, e-mail to jobs@baylegal.org. Be sure to refer to the "Youth Justice Attorney" in the title of your email.