



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: EXPERIENCED PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY

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The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a Newark-based urban research and advocacy organization, is seeking an attorney to expand the Institute's legal advocacy efforts. The candidate should have at least three (and preferably more) years of litigation and/or public policy experience in a field related to the Institute's activities (e.g., housing, economic development, criminal justice reform, juvenile advocacy, civil rights); should have strong research, writing and oral communication skills; and should be a member of the New Jersey bar or be willing to take the necessary steps to obtain such membership. Experience in Newark is a plus. Initiative and creativity are musts. Minority and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

The attorney will work with the Senior Counsel/Policy Director and other staff to expand the Institute's legal advocacy program, including initiation of litigation, amicus participation, and policy advocacy. These efforts will build on the Institute's existing advocacy, research and programmatic activities, and will take advantage of the Institute's strong relationships with local public interest organizations and law firms. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The Institute has a strong benefits package.

Applications will be accepted until March 15 or until the position is filled, and should include a resume, writing sample and list of reference. Please submit them to Public Interest Attorney Position, c/o NJISJ at the address on this letterhead.

THE INSTITUTE'S WORK

Founded in 1999 by Alan Lowenstein and his late wife Amy, the Institute has been referred to as a social justice "think and do tank." It is involved in a range of activities designed to expand equity and opportunity for low-income and minority residents of Newark and other urban areas in New Jersey. The Institute's work arises in three major areas: (1) Equal Justice (primarily involving on prisoner reentry and juvenile justice); (2) Economic Opportunity (primarily focusing on expanding employment and business opportunities for urban residents); and (3) Regional Equity (primarily addressing disparities in affordable housing and financial services).

The Institute employs a broad range of tools to further its agenda, including litigation, applied policy analysis and research, the development of pilot programs, consultation with government and non-profits, large-scale convenings and mobilization, and public education. A sample of NJISJ activities includes: (1) the New Jersey Appellate Division's decision in *Associates v. Troup*, 343 N.J. Super. 254 (App. Div. 2001), the first appellate court decision in the country recognizing predatory lending as a civil rights violation, (2) a year-long undertaking known as the New Jersey Reentry Roundtable which involved five day-long convenings and substantial original research to better understand and reform state practice and policy regarding the 70,000 individuals who will be leaving state prison in the next five years; (3) the issuance of a report highlighting New Jersey's driver's license suspension system as a major impediment to employment for urban and low-income workers in the state, which has led to a pilot court program and legislative reform, and (4) the development of a demonstration program that has enabled more than 160 recent urban high school graduates to enter the building construction trade unions and has served as a model for the state's commitment of up to \$30 million to replicate the program. Additional information about the Institute can be found at www.njisj.org.

The Institute's legal program works across our programmatic areas. Some recent activities include: (1) participation as amicus in the appellate litigation of a case challenging the disenfranchisement of parolees and probationers and raising important doctrinal questions under the state constitutional equal protection doctrine; (2) researching, drafting and submitting on behalf of a broad-based coalition research in support of proposed regulations reducing the time youth in juvenile justice facilities may be placed in isolation for infractions from 30 to 5 days; (3) participation, in partnership with the NJ Office of the Child Advocate, as amicus before the State Supreme Court in a case in which the Court ruled unanimously that youth in court for status offenses may not be locked up; and (4) participation before federal and state appellate courts in a case challenging mandatory arbitration provisions of subprime home mortgages.

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