

Prairie State Legal Services  
Job Opportunity Announcement  
ATTORNEY FELLOWSHIP: Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program  
Rock Island or Ottawa, IL

PSLS has been competitively selected by Equal Justice Works as an implementing partner of Equal Justice Works' Elder Justice Program (EJP). EJP is a national, professional fellowship program for attorneys designed to increase access to legal assistance for older victims of crime. This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Award Number 2019-V3-GX-K033.

**Job Description**

PSLS is seeking diverse and dynamic applicants for a full-time attorney position as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Elder Justice Program. Fellows may be located in PSLS' Ottawa or Rock Island offices and will serve clients in Whiteside, Lee, LaSalle, Livingston, Iroquois, McLean, Woodford, Marshall, Putnam, Bureau, Stark, Knox, Henderson, Warren, Henry, Mercer and Rock Island counties.

An Equal Justice Works fellowship is an opportunity to transform your passion for equal justice into a career. As a Fellow, you will be part of a prestigious cohort EJP attorneys hosted by legal services organizations across the United States. The Fellow will provide direct legal services to older victims of crime on civil legal issues arising from their victimization in areas such as financial exploitation, guardianship, housing, employment, protection orders, public benefits, and victims' rights enforcement. In addition to providing direct legal services, Fellows will conduct outreach and training to legal and allied professionals on elder abuse and help increase multidisciplinary, coordinated responses.

As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, you will develop experience and skills to be a leader in social justice while contributing to a broader community of practice serving older victims. Fellows in the Elder Justice Program cohort are required to actively participate in peer-to-peer learning and trainings delivered by Equal Justice Works and training partners throughout the year. In addition, Fellows have individual access to on-demand technical assistance from subject matter experts and are required participation in Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training.

**Responsibilities**

Among other duties as assigned, the Fellow will:

- Provide victim-centered direct legal services – legal screening, advice, brief service, direct representation—to older victims of crime in rural communities to address civil legal issues that arise from the victimization
- Protect and enforce victims' rights on behalf of clients
- Develop and maintain networking relationships with local bar associations and with local, state, and federal governments and community agencies that serve older adults
- Strategize, plan and conduct training and outreach on elder abuse to legal and allied professionals
- Engaging in peer-to-peer learning as part of the Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program Fellow cohort
- Actively contributing to and participating in Elder Justice Program cohort activities (resource exchanges; mandatory webinars and conference calls; and trainings including Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training.
- Demonstrating leadership as an Equal Justice Works fellow
- Contributing to required programmatic reporting and overall program evaluation
- Provide accurate and complete information for grant reporting to grant funders including documenting services in the case record
- Actively participate in a staff committee or task force related to one or more areas of our practice
- Exhibit a high level of personal energy, organization, and commitment to the position and the PSLS mission

**Salary and Benefits**

The Fellowship position is a full-time position at 37.5 hours per week. PSLS offers a salary competitive with similar organizations. Our attorney salary scale starts at \$50,000 per year for candidates who meet the minimum qualifications, and increases with each year of relevant experience. PSLS is committed to providing an excellent, comprehensive benefits package to its full-time employees that includes:

- Health insurance, including the opportunity to qualify for a wellness credit
- Dental insurance
- Vision insurance
- 403b Retirement Plan including employer contributions
- PTO that starts at 3 weeks/year and increases with additional years worked
- Paid sick leave
- 6 weeks of paid parental leave after one year of employment
- Extensive training and education program

### **Qualifications**

- Currently admitted to the practice of law in the State of Illinois, or admitted in another state and eligible for reciprocity in Illinois.
- Demonstrated commitment to serving disadvantaged populations, knowledge of poverty law, and interest in providing services to low-income individuals, particularly older victims of crime
- Excellent oral/written communication, research skills, and computer competency
- Organizational and case management skills
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary setting to facilitate a coordinated community response and provide holistic services to clients
- Spanish language proficiency is preferred, but not required

Moderate travel is required; applicant must have a valid driver's license and/or reliable transportation.

### **Application Details**

Please indicate " Equal Justice Works Fellowship" in the subject line and email a letter explaining your interest, experience, and office preference, your resume, three professional references, and a short writing sample (no more than 10 pages) to [careers@pslegal.org](mailto:careers@pslegal.org)

### **Resumes accepted until position is filled**

Prairie State Legal Services is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. We will recruit, employ, pay, and promote qualified applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or any other legally protected status.

### **The Organization**

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. is a not-for-profit legal aid organization that provides civil legal aid services to the poor, elderly, and people with disabilities. Prairie State has 12 offices serving 36 counties throughout northern and central Illinois. We focus services on legal problems that impact the ability of our clients to meet their basic human needs, including physical safety, access to healthcare, adequate housing, and similar needs. Prairie State is the only legal aid organization in the majority of our service area. Annually, we handle over 22,000 applications for legal help and serve over 16,000 clients. We pride ourselves on providing high quality legal services to our clients while fostering a work environment that is motivating, collaborative, and fun, with plenty of opportunities for professional growth.