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The Arizona Justice Project (“AJP”), a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to seeking justice for the innocent and correcting cases of manifest injustice in the Arizona criminal justice system. With a mission to seek justice for the marginalized and forgotten, the AJP provides *pro bono* legal representation to indigent individuals who have been wrongfully convicted in Arizona.

In Arizona, the vast number of people in prison seeking help to prove their innocence in the post-conviction setting do not have a right to an attorney nor can they afford one. In the AJP’s eighteen years of operation, the AJP has secured the release of 19 individuals in Arizona who were wrongly convicted or suffered a manifest injustice. There is an ongoing need for the legal services of the AJP, as well as a need to examine how these wrongful convictions occurred and improve the system to prevent such injustices from continuing to occur.

Title: Strategic Litigation Counsel
Position Type: Full-Time, Salaried Contract Employee
Contract Length: 18 Months, Renewable depending upon funding
Salary: \$60,000+ (based on experience)
Benefits: Health Insurance, PTO, and Holiday Pay

Objectives for Strategic Litigation Counsel

The attorney position will work on individual cases and use multiple litigation strategies to inform criminal justice stakeholders, including judges, attorneys and policy makers, of common factors that have led to wrongful convictions with the goal of improving the system to prevent future wrongful convictions. This litigation position will focus on cases where unvalidated forensic disciplines including forensic odontology, microscopic hair comparison, tire track and shoe print comparison, and some forms of firearms comparison, which lack scientific validity, have previously led to wrongful convictions. This attorney will seek to strengthen the system by working through the courts and engaging policy-makers to prevent future injustice.

Duties and Responsibilities

Litigation and Case Work (50%)

- Focus on cases where unvalidated forensic disciplines, played a role in the conviction but may be inaccurate and deserving of re-analysis
- Consult with experts in forensic disciplines and co-counsel case litigation with AJP staff attorneys and/or pro bono attorneys
- Direct the case review, evidence analysis, and expert consulting in cases with potentially flawed forensic evidence
- File amicus briefs and/or petitions in cases on issues surrounding the use of unvalidated forensic disciplines

- Oversee law-students assisting on cases

Systemic Impact Work (50%)

- Assist with training and education of attorneys on problems with unvalidated forensic disciplines for trial preparation and post-conviction collateral challenges
- Coordinate with and utilize the resources of the national Innocence Project on educational and policy related strategies aimed at preventing wrongful convictions
- Work with Arizona criminal justice stakeholders to establish best practices and/or enact reforms aimed at preventing wrongful convictions
- Participate in the Forensic Science Advisory Committee and meet with members of law enforcement, crime lab directors, prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, and law makers to discuss issues, present research, and provide an educational overview to help guide appropriate policy reforms in Arizona

Minimum Qualifications for Applicant:

- Admission to the Arizona State Bar
- At least 2 years of litigation, appellate, or clerkship experience
- Educational or practical training on forensic science disciplines and their application to criminal justice
- Excellent communications skills, both written and oral, ability to engage people and effectively articulate information
- An understanding and passion for the AJP's work and to indigent representation
- Ability to work both independently without close oversight, but also a team player who is able to work collaboratively with others

Deadline: February 20, 2017

How to Apply:

Please send a Cover Letter, CV, three work related references, and a short writing sample to info@azjusticeproject.org, describing your interest in this position, and the ways in which you satisfy the specified qualifications. Include "**Strategic Litigation Counsel Application**" in the subject line of your email. Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted once the application deadline has passed.

To learn more about the Arizona Justice Project, please visit: www.azjusticeproject.org.

The Arizona Justice Project is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identify or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability and veteran status.