



Position Description

TITLE: Legal Justice Fellow – Student Contractor/Temporary

OVERVIEW and PURPOSE:

The Arkansas Appleseed Legal Justice Center is a statewide nonprofit with a mission to increase justice and opportunity for all Arkansans by developing and advancing inclusive, collective, and systemic solutions to complex issues. Joining a national network of similar centers, Arkansas Appleseed advances its mission by addressing systemic barriers to justice at the root.

Our process can be summed up in three words: Research, Educate, Advocate. That is, we learn about systemic issues, we engage in community education, and then we advocate together for policy change. In each step, we combine the resources and expertise of community members, advocacy organizations, policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders.

The Arkansas Appleseed Legal Fellowship program was designed to provide opportunities for current graduate and law students with an interest in advancing Arkansas Appleseed's mission to increase justice and opportunity for all Arkansans by developing and advancing inclusive, collective, and systemic solutions to complex issues. Arkansas Appleseed is committed to providing training, mentorship and support to our fellows throughout and beyond their terms of service.

CURRENT PROJECTS:

Heirs Property/Family Land: This work addresses generational land ownership and development in Arkansas through conducting foundational research and facilitating community education on the subject of heirs property. The owners of heirs' property (property passed to family members by inheritance without a will) often cannot access or properly transfer the value of their property due to a lack of legal resources, protection and support. This leads to significant loss of land from communities across the state and contributes significantly to wealth inequality and a lack of asset protection and homeownership for communities of color and other historically excluded communities.

Equity ID: Current laws, policies, and practices present many structural barriers to obtaining identification, such as cost, digital access, and requirements around proof of identity. In turn, lack of ID limits access to housing, public benefits, health care, banking, employment, and more. This has harmful impacts particularly for marginalized populations. With this project, we will: a) use our multi-state Equity ID Report to educate Pulaski & Phillips Co. community members/organizations, agencies, and policymakers around potential solutions to inequitable identification policies/practices, and b) assist at least 50 Phillips Co. residents in the steps to obtain REAL ID-compliant identification.

REPORTS TO: Executive Director

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Legal Justice Fellow will spend eight to ten weeks developing valuable skills and gaining hands-on experience by:

- Engaging in community education and advocacy efforts under the supervision of Arkansas Appleseed Staff
- Building Arkansas Appleseed's capacity through resource development and training sessions
- Creating deliverables associated with Arkansas Appleseed's current projects, as listed above
- Attending weekly Team Meetings & periodic One on Ones with the Executive Director
- Participating in the Appleseed Network Summer Fellow Cohort

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- Demonstrate high level of personal accountability and work ethic, taking initiative and regularly reporting on progress through verbal and written communication
- Align work performance with organizational mission and values
- Add value to start-up legal advocacy nonprofit corporation culture
- Conduct research with integrity, taking a methodological and detail-oriented approach, using analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Be positive, professional, self-motivated, curious and open to learning

COMPETENCIES, KNOWLEDGE, and EXPERIENCE

- Be a current graduate or law student with knowledge and skill in research, writing for public audiences, & critically analyzing documents
- Experience in creating & carrying out research proposals
- Must follow CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19
- Rule XV Certification: Eligible Fellows may be required to obtain Rule XV Certification in order to take on certain legal related assignments.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Work Schedule: an average of 15-25 hours per week, flexible with some scheduled meetings required, mostly work-from-home with some in-person meetings and events required
- Travel: Required locally up to several times per month for short durations, required within Arkansas
- Transport: Valid driver's license and reliable transportation required
- Training and Compliance: Fellows are required to complete training & orientation prior to beginning any work on behalf of the organization. At no point will fellows be permitted to engage in the unauthorized practice– all assignments or duties assigned must be in compliance with the Arkansas Rules Governing Admission to the Bar and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct.

BOARD APPROVED: 3.12.23

COMPENSATION and BENEFITS

- \$25.00/hour up to 25 hours/week; training, mentorship, and support

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete our [application form](#) to upload your resume and provide a deliverable you are proud of having created (e.g., a paper, research project, presentation, etc.). A cover letter, video, presentation, or other creative work highlighting your previous experience and interest in this role is optional.

Apply by April 15th to be considered in the first round of interviews. After April 15th, applications may be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. We intend to reach out to applicants at the end of April in order to schedule interviews.



Arkansas Appleseed Legal Justice Center

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ARAppleseed.org

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