

LAJC Seeks Communications Director

About the Legal Aid Justice Center

LAJC is a nationally-recognized anti-poverty non-profit committed to battling poverty and injustice through individual legal representation, group and class action litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy, and media relations. From its offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church, LAJC is a fierce advocate for low-income clients and communities in Central and Northern Virginia, and its work broadly impacts the entire state. Just in the past year, our team of attorneys and organizers won a class-wide injunction ordering healthcare reforms in a women's prison, a national settlement providing new avenues for relief to over 400 traumatized asylum-seekers whose children were taken from them at the border, worked successfully in partnership with community leaders to demand police accountability, and won major legislative reforms regulating school policing.

Founded in 1967, LAJC provides services under four key program areas: Civil Rights & Racial Justice, Economic Justice, JustChildren, and Immigrant Advocacy. LAJC boldly tackles issues of systemic injustice and aims to raise public and policymaker awareness of some of the most pressing challenges facing low-income Virginia residents. For more information, visit www.justice4all.org.

About the Position

LAJC is seeking an experienced communications professional to develop, lead, and support all of LAJC's strategic communications. The ideal candidate will have significant communications experience, as well as demonstrated experience working on anti-poverty and racial justice initiatives. Reporting directly to the Executive Director, the Communications Director will work closely with our development team on fundraising communications, and with our advocacy teams to advance LAJC's ambitious agenda to achieve economic, racial, and social justice throughout the state.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop a comprehensive strategic communications plan for LAJC, including developing a proactive plan for advancing advocacy goals, enhancing donor communications, and setting up protocols for handling breaking news and crisis communications
- Develop a local, state, and national press strategy, including promoting in-depth reporting and op-ed placement
- Provide media training and technical assistance to program staff, clients and community partners on media strategy and execution of communications plans in furtherance of advocacy campaigns
- Work with the development team to produce written materials highlighting LAJC's work, such as annual reports, brochures, e-newsletters, solicitation letters, etc.
- Create and maintain our website and social media content, including keeping current initiatives and program pages up to date and publishing dynamic content
- Provide editing support for development and others producing outward-facing content
- Cultivate long-term relationships with media partners, develop press materials, and serve as media contact for LAJC

**Required
Qualifications**

- Strong commitment to social, economic, and racial justice
- At least five years of relevant media/communications experience
- Outstanding writing, organizational, and leadership skills
- Ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively
- Reliable personal transportation and willingness to travel statewide occasionally and to LAJC's other offices frequently
- Sense of humor

**Preferred
Qualifications**

- Experience working in communities directly impacted by economic and racial injustice
- Familiarity with many of our areas of practice
- Diverse economic, social, and/or cultural experiences

Location

LAJC's Charlottesville office preferred, but willing to consider NOVA or Richmond offices

Start Date

Summer 2019

Salary

Salary range is \$70K to \$80K. Staff located in the Falls Church office receive a \$6,500 supplement to accommodate for the increased cost of living. Exceptional fringe benefits include generous leave, fully paid health insurance, retirement plan, student loan repayment assistance, and a great work environment.

Benefits

- Generous leave
- Excellent family health insurance
- Loan repayment assistance
- 403(b) pension plan

**Application
Instructions**

Email a cover letter, resume, three references, and a writing sample to Angela Ciolfi, Executive Director, at hire@justice4all.org. The cover letter should highlight experience in building impact campaigns, including relevant litigation experience. The cover letter should also highlight any specialized skills, such as language fluency, organizing experience, or technology skills.

The positions will be open until filled, but applications will start being reviewed on April 30, 2019. Questions? Contact Angela Ciolfi, Executive Director, at angela@justice4all.org or 434-529-1810.

The Legal Aid Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, experiences, and communities to apply. The Legal Aid Justice Center is committed to strengthening the voices of our low-income clients, working in collaboration with community partners, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty. We strive to take on the issues that have broad impact on our client communities and to be responsive to client input. Recognizing the particular impact of racism on our clients and staff, we devote special attention to dismantling racial injustice. All applicants must be dedicated to working in and sustaining an environment that enables staff and clients to feel empowered, valued, respected, and safe. In reviewing applications, we look for evidence that applicants have experience and/or thoughtfulness in working with traditionally marginalized populations.