



**Open City Advocates**  
**Legal Fellow**  
**Fall 2021**

Open City Advocates seeks applicants to host for projects through the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, Skadden Fellowship, Justice Catalyst Fellowship, and other public interest fellowships beginning in the fall of 2021. Open City Advocates will consider any projects related to our mission, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss and develop project ideas with the applicant.

Open City Advocates works with children and young adults trapped in the juvenile justice system to elevate their voices and realize their full potential. Through zealous representation, holistic mentoring, and systemic reform, we assist our clients to reintegrate into their family and community while fighting for a fair and compassionate justice system, both in DC and nationwide. We begin working with youth when they are committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) and continue to support them as they transition to adulthood. Following a DC Court of Appeals decision recognizing the right to post-disposition counsel for all youth committed to DYRS (*In re N.H.M.*, 224 A.3d 581 (2020)), Open City Advocates is working with community partners to implement the right for all youth in DC.

**Roles & Responsibilities**

- Individual Representation of DC Youth
  - Provide holistic, trauma-informed representation for youth committed to DYRS
  - Attend team meetings and engage in informal advocacy with the agency
  - Represent youth in institutional disciplinary hearings
  - Represent youth in Community Status Review Hearings (revocation hearings)
  - Work with trial attorneys to provide mitigation information
- Support for Adult Clients
  - Support clients transitioning back to DC after a period of incarceration
  - Draft sentencing letters in support of clients facing charges in DC Superior Court
  - Connect clients to reentry and social services in DC
- Systemic Advocacy
  - Attend coalition meetings with community partners

**Qualifications**

- Ideal candidates are law students entering their third year or recent graduates who remain eligible for such fellowships.
- Demonstrated commitment to providing legal services in underserved communities.
- Experience providing direct legal services and/or working with directly with youth.

- Excellent research, writing, and verbal communication skills.
- Commitment to work collaboratively with community partners.
- Spanish language proficiency is a plus, but not required.
- Knowledge of trauma-informed practices preferred.

**Application Instructions**

Interested persons should apply by submitting a cover letter and resume to OCA's co-founders, Penelope Spain (penelope@opencityadvocates.org) and Whitney Louchheim (whitney@opencityadvocates.org). In the cover letter, please be sure to include a description of potential fellowship project proposals.

Please submit materials by 5 PM on Monday, July 27, 2020.