

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE | REGIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In the United States, over 5 million people go to jail every year and nearly 40% are people living in extreme poverty. Once a low-income person is arrested and even before a verdict is reached, they are more likely to experience penalties outside the legal system – such as job loss, eviction, or property seizure – which make it even more difficult to escape from poverty and avoid re-arrest. The criminal legal system is most oppressive to communities of color who experience over-policing and prosecution.

Partners for Justice (PFJ) works to disrupt this cycle by helping clients get out of jail and fighting the extra-judicial penalties of arrest that disproportionately impact the poor and people of color. Our teams of Client Advocates are embedded within Public Defender offices, where they can reach the people most vulnerable to the criminal legal system. They also help stabilize clients' lives beyond their legal involvement by connecting them with supportive social services. Since our launch in 2018, PFJ has grown rapidly and we now support five jurisdictions across the country, reaching more than 2,500 clients per year.

Overview:

At a national level, PFJ focuses on recruiting and training Client Advocates, building relationships with Public Defenders, and ongoing coaching and support to Advocate teams and their offices. This work is critical to ensure that PFJ Advocates have the right skills, support, and community to fight on behalf of their clients. With PFJ's rapid growth, we are expanding our national team and seeking a Regional Program Director to work directly with Advocates and our Public Defender partners in California. This person will be PFJ's primary point of contact with a portfolio of partner offices and their Advocate teams, playing a crucial role in creating robust holistic services for PFJ clients. The Regional Director will also help drive our growth in California, seeking out and developing new partnerships and resources to support PFJ's work.

Regional Director Responsibilities

- **Coach and empower PFJ Advocates:** Provide one-on-one support to Advocates on personal and professional development. Work with teams to identify and integrate best practices for the PFJ program in their office. Organize regular trainings or workshops to deliver local learning experiences that meet Advocate needs (in partnership with office supervisors).
- **Technical assistance to offices:** Act as primary point of contact with designated public defender partners, building meaningful relationships with Advocate supervisors. Offer advice and best practices on integrating the PFJ program into office practice.
- **Partnership development:** Identify public defenders who are a good fit for the PFJ program and work with them to bring Advocates to their office. Working with Advocates and office supervisors, identify and build relationships with community-based organizations and government agencies providing services that benefit clients.
- **Fundraising:** With support and direction from PFJ's Executive Directors, identify possible California-based grant opportunities to support PFJ's work and contribute to relationship building and proposal development.
- **Community awareness:** Maintain knowledge of local dynamics and context that affect clients, including developments in the criminal legal system or related to poverty alleviation. Help Advocates understand the communities in which they are working.
- **National resources:** Help define the PFJ Advocate role and experience. Gather best practices and contribute to national resources to enhance the Advocate practice and experience. Contribute to PFJ's annual and ongoing training events.
- **Coordination:** Facilitate communication between national PFJ team and local Advocate and office teams, ensuring visibility on national initiatives and local dynamics

Desired qualifications

Requirements:

- Commitment to PFJ's mission and to our vision of holistic, client-centered representation for low-income people involved in the criminal legal system
- Minimum of 7 years' experience working in legal or social services for low-income communities
- Ability to travel at least 25% of the time (public health conditions permitting)

Desired skills or experience:

- Experience working in the legal system, either criminal or civil matters relevant to PFJ's clients
- Deep familiarity with Los Angeles County or Alameda County, including:
 - Knowledge of the legal system, government agencies, and other institutions that low-income people regularly interact with
 - Relationships with relevant local community organizations, government agencies, or funders
- Experience providing direct services to racially or socioeconomically marginalized communities
- Experience identifying and vetting grant opportunities; clear and compelling writer
- Building external partnerships and leading through influence
- The ability to zero in on the key issues and prioritize solutions accordingly
- Supervising or coaching other adults
- Working remotely with distributed teams, while remaining effective and productive
- Experience working in a start-up environment
- MSW, JD, or equivalent relevant experience

Regional Directors should also model the characteristics we look for in outstanding Client Advocates:

- Creative problem-solving, with the ability to find innovative and efficient solutions to unusual obstacles
- Proactive and takes the initiative
- Able to handle ambiguity and thrives on working independently, with limited oversight
- Resilient, tenacious, and optimistic in the face of challenges

Compensation and other perks

The salary for this position is competitive with other non-profit organizations and commensurate with experience. This position can be filled either on an employee or contract basis, with benefits negotiated accordingly. PFJ offers unlimited vacation and sick leave, as well as the ability to work remotely.

We are deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. PFJ is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, marital status, veteran status, pregnancy, parental status, genetic information or characteristics (or those of a family member) or any other basis prohibited by applicable law. **People who hold identities that overlap with those of PFJ's clients are strongly encouraged to apply for this role and will be prioritized in the hiring process.**

To apply:

Please send a cover letter, resume, and two references to hiring@partnersforjustice.org with "CA Regional Director" in the subject line. Be advised that if you do not include this subject line, we may not receive your application.