JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Temporary Attorney

Focusing on Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid-Use Disorder

(Philadelphia, PA)

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) works to ensure equal access to justice for the devastatingly high number of indigent incarcerated and institutionalized people within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PILP provides civil legal services to over 100,000 persons housed in county jails, state and federal prisons, detention centers, and state hospitals. We engage in direct representation, class action litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, and pro se assistance to incarcerated persons with legal reference materials and referrals. Our litigation is primarily in the federal courts.

Our organization is committed to ensuring that the most marginalized members of our community behind bars are afforded their statutory and constitutionally protected rights. PILP’s litigation docket includes cases involving COVID-19, solitary confinement, physical and sexual assault, disability rights, transgender rights, women’s issues, freedom of religion, mental health and medical care, and other conditions of confinement. PILP is based out of three offices in Philadelphia, Lewisburg, and Pittsburgh. This position is for the Philadelphia office. Commuting options may be discussed. Due to COVID-19, PILP staff are primarily working remotely. We continue to reassess this as we move forward.

PILP is seeking an attorney to work on a new grant-funded project to address the opioid overdose epidemic through litigation and advocacy to increase the availability of vital medical treatment to people living in jails and prisons. This project will include: filing records requests for county jail policies relating to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder/Medication-Assisted Treatment (MOUD/MAT), drafting a report analyzing state wide trends, answering intake from incarcerated individuals seeking MOUD/MAT, investigating potential legal claims, and representing clients in cases related to denial of MOUD/MAT, including potential class action litigation.

This position lasts from present - September 30, 2021. It possibly can be extended depending on additional grant funding and budget.

Responsibilities:

- Filing and litigating records requests under Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know Law
- Drafting a report analyzing county jail policies on MOUD/MAT
- Reviewing intake relating to opioid-use disorder
- Litigating cases on behalf of incarcerated individuals related to denial of MOUD/MAT
- Conducting visits to prisons and institutions to meet with clients
• Working closely with the legal team, issue experts, and clients to investigate and develop potential cases
• Communicating with local officials to advocate on behalf of incarcerated people
• Working with staff to develop relationships with community partners

Qualifications:
• Pennsylvania Bar admission, or admission to another state bar and willingness to apply for admission pursuant to Rule 311 (which does not require taking a bar exam).
• 1-5 years of experience as a lawyer, preferably in the areas of Prisoner Rights or Civil Rights. Experience litigating class actions is a plus.
• Prior experience with Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know Law or other jurisdictions’ public records laws is a plus.
• Prior experience with Medications for Opioid Use Disorder/Medication-Assisted Treatment and related advocacy is a plus.
• Excellent research, analytic, writing, and communication skills
• Strong work ethic, initiative, sound judgment, and creativity
• Willingness to travel and work outside of normal business hours
• Commitment to public interest work and the role of PILP in safeguarding the rights of incarcerated and institutionalized people
• Awareness and sensitivity to the needs and concerns of individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Salary/Benefits: PILP salaries are based on a salary scale. The salary for an attorney with 1-5 years of experience will be in the range of $45,400 - $55,800, with an excellent benefits package, including a PPO health insurance plan at no cost to the employee.

Opening/Closing Date: PILP will accept applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled. PILP is seeking to fill this position as quickly as possible.

To Apply:
Please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to the email jobs@pailp.org, with the subject line “PILP JOBS: MOUD Attorney.”

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project values a diverse work environment and strongly encourages women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ, people with disabilities, and people who have had prior contact with criminal justice system to apply. Bilingual capabilities, especially Spanish, are also a plus.

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE
The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) is an equal opportunity employer. PILP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, sexual or gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status.