



# School Justice Project

## 2024 STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION

School Justice Project (SJP) is seeking a Staff Attorney to join the team in September 2024 and provide special education representation to young people in adult criminal court. **Applicants must be current attorneys who are D.C. Bar members or currently eligible to waive into the D.C. Bar.**

**Organization Overview:** SJP is a special education legal services organization in Washington, D.C. serving students with disabilities ages 17-22 who are involved in D.C.'s juvenile or criminal legal systems. SJP works to build racial justice by increasing educational equity and decreasing mass incarceration. SJP uses special education law to ensure that older, court-involved students with disabilities have access to a quality education. SJP uses three strategies to achieve its mission: 1) Direct Representation, 2) Systemic Advocacy & Policy, 3) Community Outreach & Legal Training. For more info, visit [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org).

**Position Description:** The Staff Attorney will primarily provide special education legal representation to clients involved in criminal proceedings in D.C. Superior Court.

*The Staff Attorney will carry individual cases and assist clients by:*

- Advocating for clients at school meetings, court hearings, and administrative proceedings
- Collaborating with clients to improve compliance with probation or community release
- Collaborating with defense attorneys to seek alternatives to incarceration or reduced sentences
- Identifying community-based resources to assist clients' transition to adulthood
- Staffing a legal advice clinic

**Qualifications:** Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to social justice, racial justice, education, and juvenile & criminal legal systems reform. SJP values building a diverse and inclusive team, and individuals with personal/lived experience with the legal systems and/or the communities SJP serves are strongly encouraged to apply. Qualifications include:

- Applicants must be current attorneys who are D.C. Bar members or currently eligible to waive into the D.C. Bar.
- Clinical or work experience of client-facing legal services, preference to indigent defense experience
- Self-starter and ability to work independently
- Excellent research, writing, and oral communication skills
- Keen problem-solving skills, ability to troubleshoot, and creative and analytical thinking
- Familiarity with special education law and/or DC's criminal legal systems is a plus

**Compensation:** The Staff Attorney's salary range is \$68,000-\$85,000, depending on experience. SJP offers a generous benefits package including health insurance, paid leave, and a 401(k) plan.

**How to Apply:** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants must submit a single file including a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and list of three references (name, address, contact information, and statement of relationship to the Applicant) to: Claire Blumenson, Executive Director & Co-Founder, at [jobs@sjpd.org](mailto:jobs@sjpd.org) AND [info@sjpd.org](mailto:info@sjpd.org), with the subject "2024 SJP Staff Attorney."