



CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION
62 WASHINGTON ST. MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
TELEPHONE (860) 344-0447
FAX (860) 346-2938
E-MAIL POVERTYLAW@CONNLEGLALSERVICES.ORG

KEVIN J. RASCH
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ADMINISTRATOR*

PRISCILLA CUTTINO
*ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
ADMINISTRATOR*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
62 WASHINGTON STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

LAW OFFICES

1000 LAFAYETTE BLVD
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

16 MAIN STREET
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

153 WILLIAMS STREET
NEW LONDON, CT 06320

1177 SUMMER STREET
STAMFORD, CT 06905

85 CENTRAL AVENUE
WATERBURY, CT 06702

1125 MAIN STREET
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

SATELLITE OFFICES

5 COLONY STREET
MERIDEN, CT 06451

29 NAEK ROAD, SUITE 5A
VERNON, CT 06066

ATTORNEY POSITION AVAILABLE:

Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps Legal Fellowship

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS) seeks a skilled and committed attorney to fill a two-year fellowship position providing holistic, client-centered legal advocacy for human trafficking survivors. Based at CLS' Stamford office, the attorney will coordinate CLS' intake of referrals for civil legal services for survivors; build relationships with partners who serve people who have been subjected to sex or labor trafficking; and directly provide civil legal services to clients who have been trafficked.

ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Connecticut Legal Services (CLS) is Connecticut's largest non-profit law firm, providing free civil legal help to low-income people in areas including housing, consumer rights, family law, public benefits, education, immigration, employment and disability. With a staff of more than 70 advocates and volunteers in seven offices across Connecticut, CLS fights for equal justice and improved life opportunities for more 12,000 people every year.

THE FELLOWSHIP

The Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps is a legal fellowship program designed to increase capacity and access to civil legal help for crime victims. A cohort of approximately sixty fellows are placed at nonprofit organizations across the country to provide direct representation to victims of crimes, including human trafficking, fraud/identity theft, campus sexual assault, and hate crime, and immigrant victims of crime with meritorious claims for immigration relief, and outreach and education to community partners. All fellows will incorporate crime victims' rights enforcement into their practice and will receive training from the National Crime Victim Law Institute and other training and technical assistance providers.

This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Award Number 2017-MU-MU-K131, and private funding.

The fellowship responds to a significant unmet need: Human trafficking in Connecticut is a growing problem, and trafficking survivors often desperately need legal services that the existing infrastructure does not have capacity to provide.



POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain an active caseload of civil legal cases for human trafficking survivors.
- Provide crime victims' rights enforcement to human trafficking survivors.
- Outreach, education and training:
 - Establish and strengthen relationships with community-based service providers, government social service agencies, and law enforcement agencies that work with human trafficking survivors, building CLS' referral network for trafficking survivors.
 - Serve as a liaison, accepting and making referrals, to other providers working with trafficking survivors.
 - Conduct outreach and training events to help survivors, community members, justice system stakeholders, and service providers understand the value and purpose of civil legal services for trafficking survivors.
- Serve as a central point of contact for referrals of trafficking survivors to CLS, screening potential clients and facilitating seamless connection to CLS' advocates across the state.
- Collaborate with other Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps Fellows.
- Contribute to programmatic reporting.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The human trafficking fellow will report to the managing attorney of CLS' Stamford office.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Deep and demonstrated commitment to advocacy on behalf of low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized communities, and to CLS' mission, vision, goals, and values;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to write persuasively and clearly and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations;
- Demonstrated ability both to collaborate closely with colleagues and also to work independently when necessary;
- Creativity and flexibility in solving problems and meeting challenges;
- Strong work ethic and willingness to travel within Connecticut and to work late hours and/or weekends when circumstances demand it;
- Ability to travel out of state at least twice per year to attend training events related to the fellowship;
- A J.D. with current good standing to practice law in Connecticut.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience and training engaging sensitively and competently with crime victims and/or other people who have experienced trauma;
- Experience in crime victims' rights enforcement and victim service;
- Spanish language ability;
- Knowledge of substantive and procedural law in one or more areas including family law; benefits law; and education law.

START DATE

Early June. Applicants must be able to attend an initial training boot camp, held for Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps fellows from across the country, in late June.

COMPENSATION

This is an entry-level position at the same salary that CLS offers its staff attorneys. Applicants will be provided with a competitive package of health insurance and other benefits.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should send a cover letter clearly describing their qualifications, resume, 5-10 page writing sample, and the names and contact information for three references to jperry@connlegalservices.org. **Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.**

Connecticut Legal Services is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.