



**Position:** Staff Attorney

**Reports to:** Executive Director & Legal Director

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

### **About the Organization**

The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. Through community building, training, and policy reform, we provide national leadership on juvenile defense issues with a focus on curbing the deprivation of young people's rights in the court system.

Our reach extends to urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas, where we elevate the voices of youth, families, and defenders to create positive case outcomes and meaningful opportunities for children. We also work with broad coalitions to ensure the reform of juvenile courts includes the protection of children's rights — particularly the right to counsel.

### **Summary of Position**

NJDC is seeking a mid-level staff attorney with recent frontline juvenile defense experience to join our team. The staff attorney will be responsible for conducting extensive legal research, analysis, and writing; will respond to requests for assistance from juvenile defense attorneys or stakeholders in the field; and may be called upon to provide training.

The staff attorney will work in partnership with our leadership team, staff, and community to advance NJDC's mission and programs. The position encompasses a diverse set of responsibilities, including:

- Provide direct support and technical assistance to juvenile defense attorneys, policy advocates, and other juvenile court stakeholders working to improve access to and the quality of juvenile defense representation at the state, local, tribal, and national levels;
- Support juvenile defense practice and policy, generally, by conducting extensive legal research and analysis and drafting reports, articles, fact sheets, and advocacy tools;
- Act as a liaison with NJDC's network of regional juvenile defender centers;
- Engage in critical and strategic analysis of issues impacting youth rights and equity;
- Contribute to and manage an assigned portfolio of projects while also being available to assist other team members as needed;
- Collaborate with coalition partner organizations;
- Assist, as requested, with development and implementation of events, programs, or activities for our community of juvenile defense attorneys and policy advocates;
- Contribute to NJDC's newsletter, website content, and social media; and
- Fulfill other tasks as assigned by NJDC's leadership team.

## **Required Skills & Qualifications**

### *Educational & Experience Requirements:*

- Law degree and membership in good standing of a state or territory of the United States
- Comprehensive understanding of the ways in which defense services are delivered to children in the youth legal system
- *Minimum of two years* of criminal or juvenile defense experience, with recent juvenile defense experience preferred

### *Essential Attributes & Skills:*

- Demonstrated commitment to youth rights, equity, and racial justice;
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively
- Hard-working & self-motivated
- Superior research & writing skills
- Takes initiative & responsibility
- Strong time management skills
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Presentation skills preferred
- Ability to travel locally and nationally
- Familiarity with how adolescent development impacts youth rights
- A commitment to youth success
- A high degree of organization
- Attention to detail
- A positive, problem-solving attitude

## **Application Instructions**

Email three attachments (1) cover letter; (2) resume or C.V.; and (3) writing sample to [inquiries@njdc.info](mailto:inquiries@njdc.info), using the subject: "Staff Attorney Application." This position is available immediately. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

All applicants should explain in your cover letter and demonstrate through their C.V. how they meet the qualifications above and what they would bring to the NJDC team. Only applicants who meet the minimum educational and experience qualifications will be considered. *This is neither an entry-level nor a senior attorney position.*

Position is open until filled. Salary is commensurate with a mid-level nonprofit attorney and includes a competitive benefits package.

*NJDC is an equal employment opportunity employer and will comply with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status or family responsibilities, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, matriculation or political affiliation, and any other basis protected by federal, state, or local laws.*