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Northwest Workers' Justice Project Seeks a bilingual Staff Attorney for its Southern Oregon Worker Justice Project!

The Northwest Workers' Justice Project protects workplace dignity by supporting the efforts of low-wage, immigrant and contingent workers to improve wages and working conditions and to eliminate imbalances in power that lead to inequity. We offer high-quality, direct legal assistance to workers and their organizations; support organizing efforts; educate workers, their leaders and the public about workplace rights; advocate for better employment laws; and promote greater access to low-cost employment legal assistance. For more information about NWJP, visit www.nwjp.org.

Our Southern Oregon Worker Justice Project seeks to help immigrant workers address rampant wage theft, dangerous working conditions, retaliation and race discrimination, particularly in Oregon's forestry industry. Our goal is to help rebuild and strengthen the employment opportunities of Southern Oregon communities by protecting workplace standards, ensuring compliance with H-2B foreign temporary worker visa regulations to encourage the employment of local workers that otherwise might be displaced by wildfires, and supporting community organizations that serve immigrant workers.

Our office is in Portland, Oregon (although we are currently working remotely), but since the project will focus on Southern Oregon, a successful applicant could work remotely from elsewhere if they are able to travel to Southern Oregon periodically for litigation and community meetings. This is listed as a full-time, 40-hour a week position, but FTE is also negotiable.

Position description:

NWJP seeks a Spanish-speaking Staff Attorney to expand its Southern Oregon Worker Justice Project in collaboration with community organizations in the Medford, Oregon, area. This is a unique and exciting opportunity to provide employment-related legal assistance to some of Oregon's most vulnerable and isolated workers that often are beholden to their employers because of their H-2B temporary foreign visa status. By supporting these low-wage, contingent and immigrant workers, we will work to dismantle structural racism and inequities and help Southern Oregon workers recover from the terrible 2020 wildfires.. The central focus of the position is client representation, outreach and education, support of worker organizing and public education. We are looking for an attorney committed to strategically using their legal training to build power for working people.

The position requires the ability to work well with colleagues and a variety of external partners including unions, civil and immigrants' rights organizations, and community and advocacy groups.

Because NWJP neither seeks nor accepts funds from federal or state government in order to maintain independence, the attorney must be willing to engage in some development and fundraising activity.

Required qualifications:

- Ability to establish trusting relationships with low-income clients and cultural competence to address the legal needs of immigrant workers;
- Excellent communication, writing, and research skills;
- Ability to work independently and as a team player;
- Ability to think creatively, and willingness to implement unconventional legal strategies;
- Experience working with diverse communities;
- Strong organizational skills;
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice, as well as a desire to disrupt existing systems of oppression;
- Proficiency in spoken and written Spanish, and
- Oregon bar accreditation, or ability and willingness to obtain it as soon as possible.

Preferred qualifications:

- Demonstrated litigation skills.
- Experience in employment law.
- Demonstrated commitment to workers' rights.

How to apply:

Review of applications and interviews will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, and in any event, before October 15. We would like the successful applicant to start by January 2022.

Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and a list of three references to Corinna Spencer-Scheurich, Director, at jobs@nwjp.org. Please include the posting you are applying for in the subject line.

NWJP strives to be an affirming, positive, diverse work environment and is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage applicants who will contribute to our diversity and/or who come from our client communities to apply.

Salary:

Flexible FTE with .8 FTE or more preferred. Salary is commensurate with salary paid by Oregon legal services programs, which depends on experience. As an example, a successful, bilingual candidate with 0-5 years of experience working full time would expect to make \$64,850 to \$72,350 a year, but applicants with more experience are encouraged to apply and would be paid according to experience.

NWJP offers a medical, vision and dental plan that is covered 100% for employees and offers a small contribution to child coverage. After 2 years of employment, NWJP has a bonus plan currently amounting to 4% of all payroll and distributed to staff based on FTE; employees are encouraged to contribute bonuses to an IRA retirement plan. NWJP has a flexible work schedule, although this position will be asked to participate in meetings during regular office hours. NWJP provides paid vacation, sick days and holidays.