

## **Staff Attorney – Reentry Program**

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) is looking to hire a full-time attorney to provide services in North Philadelphia as part of the JEVS/Temple Reentry Workforce Development Program, which begins this month. The attorney should be in their first or second year of practice.

**\*\* NOTE:** *PLSE expects to be able to hire a second attorney, requiring similar credentials, for a staff position in the Pardon Project beginning in August. Candidates should indicate whether they would also like to be considered for the second position when its funding is secured.*

### **About JEVS/Temple Reentry Workforce Development Program**

JEVS Human Services and Temple University are joining forces to bring a full-service Reentry Initiative to service people returning from prison and those trying to navigate the challenges and barriers of a criminal past. Participants who successfully participate in the JEVS/Temple Reentry Workforce Development Program are intended to have the opportunity to complete targeted high-demand, sector-based training programs, be guided to sustainable employment opportunities, and receive peer mentoring and other wrap-around services. The expungement, record sealing, and pardon services offered by PLSE will be part of the services offered by the program.

### **About PLSE**

Founded in 2010, PLSE provides free legal representation to low income residents of Philadelphia whose criminal records are holding them back from achieving their potential as productive, contributing citizens. The services include seeking expungements in criminal court and pardons from the Governor, educating elected and community leaders, creating community-based Pardon Hubs, and empowering under-resourced communities to seek a greater voice and needed systemic reforms. PLSE is a recipient of the 2018-2019 Barra Award as an Exemplary Non-Profit Organization, and was identified in 2018 as an “impact agency” by the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey for providing services that help address the causes of inter-generational poverty. Additional information about PLSE’s staff and programs may be found on its website, [www.plsephilly.org](http://www.plsephilly.org).

### **About the Position**

The Reentry Program Staff Attorney will be embedded in the JEVS Program in North Philadelphia, and have direct contact with clients and program staff on a daily basis. The Staff Attorney will:

- Help prepare and provide community education around criminal record histories and pathways to pardons
- Participate in client intake sessions and explain criminal record histories and the expungement and pardon processes to potential clients
- Draft, review, file and argue expungement petitions

The Staff Attorney will likely be required to supervise a paralegal, whom PLSE expects to hire for the program within six months of the attorney’s hiring. The Staff Attorney will also participate in the



development of PLSE's new Pardon Project, which was launched in the fall of 2018. The Staff Attorney will report directly to the Director of the Criminal Records Expungement Project and be responsible for additional duties as assigned by that Director.

### **Salary and Benefits**

The starting annual salary for this position will be \$59,000 for an attorney in their second year of practice. Staff Attorneys are eligible to participate in IOLTA's Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which provides loans for paying educational debt and then forgives the loans at the completion of a year of service. PLSE provides the following benefits:

- Health, long-term disability, and professional liability insurance
- PA attorney registration
- Reimbursement for all CLE courses
- Membership in the Philadelphia Bar Association
- Attendance at one conference each year
- Monthly SEPTA TransPass

### **Requirements for the Position**

Candidates with personal experience with the criminal justice system are preferred. The successful candidate(s) must be organized, able to work independently and as part of a team, be comfortable in making presentations to large groups (e.g., community education and outreach programs), have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and a good sense of humor. The position will require occasional evening and Saturday duties. The successful candidate(s) must:

- Be an attorney in good standing of the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Have an interest in the criminal and/or public interest law
- Have a demonstrated commitment to social justice

### **To Apply**

**Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, and the position will remain open until filled.** Applications should be submitted to [info@plsephilly.org](mailto:info@plsephilly.org).

Please include a cover letter, resume, and three professional references. PLSE values a diverse work environment. PLSE invites all applicants to include in their cover letter a statement about how their unique background and/or experiences might contribute to the diversity, cultural vitality, and perspective of our staff and the services we provide to impacted communities.

**Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity is an equal opportunity employer.** PLSE does not discriminate in the selection of employees on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, genetics, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. In addition to federal law requirements, PLSE complies with all applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, leaves of absence, compensation and training.