



Job Announcement Staff Attorney - May 2008

CJA seeks a highly skilled, articulate and motivated individual for the position of Staff Attorney.

About CJA: The Center for Justice and Accountability (www.cja.org) is an international human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress. CJA uses litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning from periods of abuse.

CJA uses two civil laws to hold perpetrators of international human rights abuses accountable in the United States: the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) and the Torture Victim Protection Act (TVPA). CJA also pursues criminal human rights cases before the Spanish National Court which has initiated investigations into abuses around the world.

CJA has pioneered a survivor-centered approach to the quest for justice that combines legal representation with medical and psycho-social services to both empower and heal torture survivors and their communities. CJA partners with pro bono law firms and other pro bono experts to help litigate our cases.

CJA is now the leading NGO that brings cases against individual human rights abusers in the U.S. and Spain. We have filed cases against human rights violators from Bosnia, Chile, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Peru and Somalia. We are currently investigating human rights abuses from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

CJA authors or signs onto amicus briefs in human rights cases filed with appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, including those that deal with the treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, and the importance of keeping U.S. courts open to international human rights cases.

In addition to our litigation docket, CJA participates in outreach and public education and has developed a human rights litigation training program for prosecutors from countries that are transitioning from periods of abuse. CJA currently has seven full time staff positions; we are in a period of growth and expect to add one to two positions in the next year. The Legal Department presently consists of three full-time positions, Legal Director, International Attorney and Staff Attorney, and one to two law student interns. The International Attorney has primary responsibility for the Spanish Legal Program and Special Projects. The Staff Attorney reports directly to the Legal Director.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Investigation: The Staff Attorney will develop and investigate potential new cases. Investigative responsibilities include factual and legal research in the U.S. and overseas, developing contacts with survivor communities and human rights activists, and analyzing relevant political and legal issues in the home country to assess the viability of the potential case.

Litigation: The Staff Attorney, at the direction of the Legal Director and in coordination with pro bono co-counsel, will handle all aspects of litigation in assigned cases filed in the United States. Litigation responsibilities include legal research, devising litigation strategy, preparing legal documents,

calendaring, representing clients in trial and appellate courts, writing amicus briefs, and organizing amicus strategies. The Staff Attorney assists in securing pro bono co-counsel and expert witnesses. The Staff Attorney will keep current with the most recent developments in the field of ATS and TVPA law and related evidentiary and procedural issues. The Staff Attorney keeps adequate files and completes case reports at the request of the Legal Director or the Development & Outreach Director. The Staff Attorney may also be responsible for selecting and supervising law student interns.

Clients: The Staff Attorney handles client intake and will serve as primary contact with the clients for communications with the legal team for assigned cases. The Staff Attorney has primary responsibility for keeping clients informed on case development, acts as a liaison between clients and the legal team, and coordinates logistics for client travel. The Staff Attorney assures that clients' needs (including therapy and social services) are met and that their interests are safeguarded.

Development/Education/Outreach: The Staff Attorney participates in fundraising, education and outreach activities as requested by the Executive Director or the Development & Outreach Director. Fundraising activities may include drafting and reviewing grant proposals and reports, participating in fundraising events and meeting with major donors. The Staff Attorney reviews fundraising, outreach and communications materials regarding his or her respective cases to ensure their accuracy. The Staff Attorney engages in education and outreach efforts to advance public awareness of CJA and its mission.

Qualifications: *The following qualifications are required:*

- Minimum three years of litigation experience and membership in at least one State Bar. (will consider less experience with strong demonstration of international law, human rights or languages skill set)
- Demonstrated commitment to human rights.
- Excellent legal research, writing and analytical skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills; ability to form relationships with people of different cultural backgrounds.
- Excellent organization and time management skills.
- Desire to work with survivors of torture and other human rights abuses.
- A team building, collegial approach to work and a sense of humor.

The following qualifications are preferred:

- Experience with international law and human rights cases, including the ATS and TVPA.
- Familiarity with universal jurisdiction litigation in Europe.
- Experience working with human rights organizations and diverse communities, especially those that have endured conflict.
- Foreign language skills (very important).

Salary: Salary is commensurate with experience within the guidelines of CJA's scale. Generous benefits.

Application: Please send cover letter, resume, references and recent writing sample to center4justice@cja.org with "ATTN: Staff Attorney Search" in the subject line. Hard copies may be sent to: CJA, 870 Market Street, Suite 688, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received; the deadline will remain open until the position is filled. CJA is an **equal opportunity employer** that actively recruits people of color, women, persons with disabilities, and persons with diverse gender and sexual identities.