



JOB DESCRIPTION
AMERICORP: ELDER JUSTICE LEGAL
FELLOW
THROUGH EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS

THE HOST SITES:

The Elder Justice Legal Fellow will be co-located within the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) and Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE). The position will be administered by NVRDC.

- Started in 2012, [NVRDC](#) empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management and legal services. This agency employs a uniquely structured "shared leadership" model with two Co-Executive Directors aiming to create a truly holistic agency. NVRDC believes in having strong relationships with other DC providers in hopes that the victim recovery process will be seamless.
- For 40 years, [LCE](#) has championed the dignity and rights of DC's elderly by providing free legal and social work services to those in need — empowering, defending and protecting vulnerable seniors. The Catalogue for Philanthropy calls Legal Counsel for the Elderly "One of the best small charities in the DC region". LCE's staff and volunteers assist more than 6,000 elders each year.

POSITION SUMMARY:

NVRDC seeks a full-time Elder Justice Fellow to work as a co-located attorney at NVRDC and Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) of AARP to advocate for and represent senior victims of abuse and financial exploitation in DC. The fellowship start date will be between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30, 2016 and last a year from the start of service (pending funding and successful reapplication by NVRDC, this position may be able to remain for a second year of service).

This attorney will work collaboratively with NVRDC's leadership, legal team, and case managers to provide crime victims' rights support, advocacy, and legal representation for 25% of their time.

Additionally, this position will work with the Senior Attorney within LCE's Long Term Care Ombudsmen Program where they will spend 75% of their time as an initial contact for seniors identified through LCE's existing intake procedures and/or by the attorneys who manage LCE's Senior Legal Hotline as experiencing abuse, threats of abuse and/or financial exploitation.

Similarly, any referrals from other agencies that show signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation will be immediately directed to the Elder Justice Fellow working in conjunction with LCE's Elder Justice Coordinator. They will conduct a full legal health questionnaire with the elder, and either handle the legal issues or refer them to other in-house or external service providers, depending on the service needs.



To achieve maximum impact, the Fellow will work with an inter-disciplinary team of NVRDC and LCE lawyers, two LCE social workers, NVRDC case managers, and the LTC Ombudsman Program staff, providing holistic services for at-risk seniors.

The Fellow will offer direct legal representation or, when appropriate, refer to the necessary legal support within the DC Victim Legal Network (VLNDC) and/or *pro bono* volunteers the following types of cases:

- Crime victims' rights representation;
- Civil protection orders;
- Guardianships or conservatorships;
- Wills and powers of attorney;
- Financial exploitation;
- Neglect; and
- Relevant resident complaints received by LCE's Long-term Care Ombudsman Program.

In addition to direct legal services, the Elder Justice Fellow will be expected to attend monthly meetings of the VLNDC Legal Network as well as the DC TROV multidisciplinary team, and will work closely with the DC TROV Coordinator to plan and assist in outreach and education events. Furthermore, the Fellow will work with existing NVRDC and LCE volunteers—and recruit and partner with new volunteers.

The Elder Justice Fellow will be expected to lead several internal initiatives such as, training to LCE staff attorneys (20+ lawyers); LCE's Young Lawyers Alliance (30+ lawyers); members of LCE's Board and Advisory Committee (10+ lawyers), and NVRDC's staff and pro bono panel.

TYPICAL WEEK:

In a typical week, the Fellow will spend:

- 2 to 3 days at LCE working with the Long-term Care Ombudsman attorney and/or the Elder Justice Coordinator attorney, receiving intake referrals from the LTC-Ombudsmen program, Senior Legal Hotline attorneys, and from other sources within LCE programs,
- 1 to 2 days with the NVRDC Legal Team providing direct legal services to victims of elder abuse
- 1 day at NVRDC working with the DC TROV Coordinator on outreach and education efforts.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The majority of the Elder Justice Fellow's time will be spent providing legal assistance to individuals identified as victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Assisting DC seniors with criminal legal advocacy, support and representation;
- Providing civil legal advocacy and representation related to Civil Protection Orders for senior victims;



- Offering civil legal assistance related to Guardianship or conservatorship, and assisting with powers of attorney;
- Responding to resident complaints received by LCE's Long-term Care Ombudsman Program;
- Maintaining accurate case records and responsibility for project specific grant reporting;
- Working closely with law enforcement agencies, schools, health and welfare agencies, and community partners;
- Working closely with NVRDC's DC TROV Coordinator to develop and deploy outreach & trainings;
- Attend the Victim Legal Network of DC at member meetings and relevant community gatherings;
- Offer training events in which providers and other community leaders learn to improve assistance to survivors of elder abuse, utilize local resources, and promote collaboration and communication;
- Work with the DC TROV Coordinator to provide increased opportunities for senior survivors to access information and to assist providers in creating spaces which are welcoming and inclusive of senior survivors;
- Attend month DC TROV meetings and assist in the continue coordination of DC TROV;
- Attend the annual Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training (LDT) from October 25-27, 2016 and the Department of Justice sponsored Elder Law training October 27-28, 2016;
- Continuing to grow and seek professional development opportunities for position and organization; and
- Perform other duties as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS:

In order to qualify for service under this program, a prospective candidate must be a recent graduate of an Equal Justice Works member law school (most schools are members), must have sat for or be prepared to sit for the state bar examination in the state where s/he will serve, must consent to all requisite criminal history checks, and meet all other selection criteria established by the host site.

The successful candidate for this position must also possess a combination of education and direct service experience and supports working with victims of crime. The applicant must also possess a demonstrated commitment to both public interest work and assistance to underserved populations. This position requires a self-starter who works well independently and as a team player. Specific skills and background must include:

- Some direct victim services legal experience and demonstrated desire to work with crime victims and ensure they receive the services needed;
- Strong oral and written communications skills;
- Experience working for marginalized and underserved communities and crime victims; and
- A reputation for integrity, dependability and professionalism.

This individual will be resourceful, highly organized, a team player, a critical and analytical thinker, self-reflective and self-aware, and open to growth and learning. The attorney will be committed to working with people from diverse cultural,



linguistic, economic, educational, and vocational backgrounds to demonstrate NVRDC's dedication to social justice and access to justice for all victims of crime in DC.

The ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only conviction for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable at the host site's discretion).

FELLOWSHIP COMPENSATION:

This is a full-time, (40 hours per week) FLSA exempt, at-will fellowship. The Fellow will receive an annual living allowance, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses. Additionally, Fellows receive an education award, health insurance, and other benefits. Interested applicants should contact NVRDC with any follow up questions.

HOW TO APPLY:

NVRDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Reasonable accommodations are available to qualified applicants upon request. Auxiliary aids and services are available in alternative formats.

Interested candidates should apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, and three professional references to bridgette@nvrdc.org by Aug. 31, 2016 (applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis). All inquiries related to this position should be submitted via email to bridgette@nvrdc.org.