



Position Title: Executive Director

Location: Los Angeles, California (initially remote pending COVID resolution)

The Social Justice Legal Foundation, which launched in January of this year, advances social justice by focusing on groundbreaking trial work and innovative collaboration across private, public and academic sectors. SJLF is fully funded by Hueston Hennigan, LLP, and collaborates with five elite law schools – Columbia, Northwestern, Stanford, UCLA, and Yale – and leading public interest advocacy organizations and bar associations to advance the organization’s mission.

Our focus is to bring to trial the nation’s most impactful, precedent-setting cases in targeted areas of economic and social justice and equity, which will include:

Economic Justice
Housing/Homeless Discrimination
LGBTQ+ Rights
Immigrant Justice
Native American Discrimination
Voting Rights
Criminal Justice Reform

We are seeking candidates who, first and foremost, are deeply committed to, experienced with, and passionate about social justice. The position requires hands-on management skills and creative and strategic thinking, a joy of teaching, and the willingness to help build a new foundation from the ground up. Successful candidates will have prior trial experience, including managing litigation teams, and will be well positioned to successfully build partnerships and broader coalitions to implement the goals of SJLF.

The Executive Director will serve as the chief executive of the Foundation and report to the Board of Directors, who intend to be actively involved in setting SJLF’s strategy and tactical goals. The Executive Director will also actively collaborate with SJLF’s Board of Advisors. The Executive Director’s responsibilities include and are not limited to:

- Strategic planning, leadership, and operational oversight of SJLF.
- Directing and leading a team of full-time professionals, including two staff attorneys and five Fellows (i.e., recent graduates of our collaborating law schools).

- Working with our Board of Advisors and other public interest organizations to identify cases to pursue within SJLF's focus areas and to assess strategic partners, including with an intersectional lens.
- Serving as lead trial counsel as necessary.
- Developing and enriching partnerships with other public interest organizations, bar associations and our law school collaborators.
- Preparing annual goals consistent with the strategic plan and monitoring and reporting on SJLF's progress.
- Developing and deploying an effective communications strategy.
- Engaging in thought leadership on a state or national level, including speaking at conferences or other events, and writing about SJLF's litigation, to publicize and amplify the impact of SJLF's work.
- Building a community and network amongst SJLF Fellows and alumni of the Fellows Program.

Position Requirements:

- JD plus a minimum of five years of legal experience and bar admission.
- Demonstrated experience in public interest law, public policy, or public service.
- Trial experience required; experience overseeing litigation teams and some plaintiff-side trial work preferred.
- Prior experience building, leading and managing an initiative, program or team preferred.
- Demonstrated experience with (or interest in building) networks or coalitions amongst diverse stakeholders.

Compensation will be highly competitive and comprehensive benefits will be provided.

You may read more about SJLF at www.socialjusticelaw.org.

To apply, please submit your resume, along with references, to rsteele@socialjusticelaw.org.

The Social Justice Legal Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind. All qualified applicants are considered without regard to race, color, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, family or parental status, veteran or disability status, or any other status protected by governing laws or regulations. SJLF will not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any type.