

Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Legal Fellowship

Organization: Montana Legal Services Association

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program

The Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) seeks diverse and dynamic applicants for a 24-month, full-time attorney position as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Elder Justice Program. The fellowship will begin on or about July 1, 2020, and end in June 2022.

MLSA is a legal aid law firm that increases access to justice for low and moderate income people across the state of Montana despite significant geographic challenges. MLSA staff engage in individual client representation, and broad-based advocacy through educational campaigns, forms development, outreach and litigation.

MLSA has been competitively selected by Equal Justice Works as an implementing partner of Equal Justice Works' Elder Justice Program (EJP). EJP is a national professional fellowship program for attorneys designed to increase access to legal assistance for older victims of crime. This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Award Number 2019-V3-GX-K033.

As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, you will develop experience and skills to be a leader in social justice while contributing to a broader community of practice serving older victims. Fellows in the Elder Justice Program cohort are required to actively participate in peer-to-peer learning and trainings delivered by Equal Justice Works and training partners throughout the year. In addition, Fellows have individual access to on-demand technical assistance from subject matter experts and are required to participate in Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training in 2020 and 2021 (Oct/Nov). The 2020 Leadership Development training in October will be a virtual event. The Fellow will be supervised by the Director of Advocacy and will be based in MLSA's Helena office.

Fellowship Description

The Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Fellow will:

- Provide victim-centered direct legal services to older victims of crime across the state of Montana to address the range of civil legal issues that arise from the victimization.
- Protect and enforce the civil legal rights of older victims of crime.
- Build key stakeholder relationships in furtherance of the fellowship objectives.
- Strategize, plan and conduct training and outreach on elder abuse to legal and allied professionals.

- Engage in peer-to-peer learning as part of the Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program Fellow cohort.
- Actively contribute to and participate in Elder Justice Program cohort activities (resource exchanges; mandatory webinars and conference calls; and in-person trainings as scheduled).
- Contribute to required programmatic reporting and overall program evaluation.
- Handle all aspects of a client's legal matter, including preparing pleadings, negotiation, mediation and trial work.
- Develop and maintain specialized knowledge in the areas of law most relevant to older crime victims, including: elder abuse; fraud and financial scams; identity theft; financial or material exploitation; bankruptcy or other financial problems related to fraud and exploitation; property crimes, probate, estates, taxes, exploitation, or theft by caretakers or others; deception to gain control of assets; consumer fraud in debt collection, imposter scams, telephone and mobile services, banks and lenders, prizes, sweepstakes, and lotteries.
- Ability to travel, occasionally overnight.
- Participate as part of MLSA's Victim Legal Assistance Network team.
- Other duties as assigned by the Director of Advocacy or the Executive Director.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- JD Degree with above average academic achievement.
- Licensed to practice law in Montana.
- A demonstrated commitment to public interest work and desire to assist elder victims of crime.
- Strong writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- An ability to provide victim-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally competent legal assistance to crime victims/survivors.
- An ability to work collaboratively in a variety of contexts and with multiple organizations to facilitate comprehensive services to older crime victims.
- Ability to begin the fellowship by on or about July 1, 2020 and serve for 2 years
- Those with legal experience in elder abuse, crime victims' rights enforcement and victims' services are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Law school clinic, externship, summer or other relevant practice experience a plus.
- Creativity and willingness to take on challenging projects.
- Experience with using technology including document assembly, websites and video conferencing, preferred.

Salary and other support

The Fellow will receive an annual salary, as well as including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, retirement and educational loan repayment assistance. Interested

applicants should contact Krista Partridge at [hiring@mtlsa.org](mailto: hiring@mtlsa.org) with any follow-up questions.

Please note that Fellows must commit to fulfilling the twenty-four month fellowship and will sign a Fellowship Agreement with Equal Justice Works.

Application Instructions:

Send a letter of interest, resume, three professional or academic references, and writing sample to [hiring@mtlsa.org](mailto: hiring@mtlsa.org).

Application Deadline: May 29, 2020, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Montana Legal Services Association is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons are welcome and are encouraged to apply.