Staff Attorney-A ACLU National Prison Project, Washington, DC

March 11, 2010

Career Opportunity
STAFF ATTORNEY [NPP-10]
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
National Prison Project, Washington, DC

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation ("ACLU") is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation’s civil rights laws. The ACLU invites applications for a staff attorney to work with the ACLU’s National Prison Project in the ACLU’s Washington, D.C. National Office.

OVERVIEW:
Founded in 1972 by the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Prison Project seeks to ensure constitutional conditions of confinement in prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, and immigration detention facilities. We have successfully litigated on behalf of prisoners in more than 25 states, and since 1991 we have represented prisoners in five cases before the United States Supreme Court. The Project is the only organization litigating conditions of confinement cases nationwide on behalf of men, women, and children.

Our policy priorities include reducing prison overcrowding, improving prisoner medical care, eliminating violence and maltreatment, and increasing oversight and accountability in prisons, jails, and other places of detention. The Project publishes a semi-annual Journal, coordinates a nationwide network of litigators, conducts training and public education conferences, and provides expert advice and technical assistance to local community groups and lawyers throughout the country.

The Project also works to challenge the policies of over-incarceration that have led the United States to imprison more people than any other country in the world. This is an opportune moment to reform those policies. There is a growing consensus among criminal justice experts and policymakers that America’s criminal justice system has relied too heavily on incarceration as the first and often only response for non-violent behavior that could better be addressed through other means. The population in American prisons and jails has tripled in the past 15 years and now approaches two and a half million. Facilities are overcrowded; medical systems are overwhelmed; work, education, and treatment programs are inadequate; and prison violence has increased. This failed experiment does not make us safer, it is not affordable, and it exacerbates the racial disparities that have long plagued the criminal justice system.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Litigate in federal courts, including appellate courts, throughout the country.
- Handle a substantial caseload of major class actions in federal court and work closely with other staff attorneys and local counsel.
- Draft pleadings and briefs, engage in discovery and motion practice, and conduct evidentiary hearings and oral arguments.
- Provide technical assistance and expert legal advice to local ACLU affiliates, cooperating attorneys and others who seek assistance from the Project.
- Conduct policy advocacy on prisoners’ rights, criminal justice, and immigration detention issues.
- Engage in public speaking and articulate ACLU views to a variety of audiences on a broad range of prisoners’ rights, criminal justice and civil liberties issues.
- Supervise paralegals.

**EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Active bar membership and litigation experience, preferably in federal court. Significant litigation experience is preferred.
- A demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and public interest law.
- A demonstrated ability to work independently as well as within a team.
- Excellent legal research skills.
- Demonstrated ability to perform complex legal analytical work.
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral.
- Familiarity with criminal justice issues preferred.
- Ability to travel.

**COMPENSATION:**
The ACLU offers a generous and comprehensive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with experience and within parameters of the ACLU compensation scale.

**HOW TO APPLY:**
Please send a cover letter, a current resume, the names and phone numbers of three references, and at least one legal writing sample by email to hrjobs@aclu.org Reference [NPP-10/ACLU-W] in subject line – or by mail to:

Human Resources  
RE: [NPP-10/ACLU-W]  
American Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, which will not be before April 9, 2010. Please indicate where you learned of this job posting.

The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name “ACLU.”