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CALL FOR EJW FELLOWSHIP OR SCHOOL-BASED FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS

Public Counsel's Children's Rights Project is an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, social workers, and advocates working on issues affecting children, youth, and families in Los Angeles and California. We use a multi-disciplinary approach to legal advocacy with the trauma-informed and resiliency-focused tools of our social workers supporting the work of our legal advocates to remove legal barriers for children, youth, families, and communities of color most impacted by systemic racism and economic injustice. We fight for the dignity of our clients through direct legal services, community-led local policy work, impact litigation, and statewide legislative transformation.

The Children's Rights Project is divided into four practice groups: Education Rights, Adoptions, Guardianship, and Transition Age Youth (TAY). We also engage in policy advocacy in the areas of child welfare reform, juvenile justice reform, and addressing racial disparities in California's regional center system.

For this application cycle, Public Counsel's Children's Rights Project seeks applicants to partner on a fellowship application in any of our practice groups, with a preference for projects that focus on:

- Representation of families who are experiencing family separation as the result of a hidden foster care or domestic violence incident;
- Representation of parenting youth at risk of losing their children to foster care;
- Representation of TAY who are at risk of losing their housing, children, and/or benefits because they are survivors of domestic violence, and development of a strategic training plan and policy reforms to address this issue; or
- Representation of foster youth for whom the county has been unable to provide appropriate placements because of the youth's medical/mental health conditions and/or disability, and research regarding best practices/evidence-based approaches for providing stable housing to this population of youth.

JOB SUMMARY

Applications for those proposing Equal Justice Works or Skadden fellowship projects should be submitted by July 1, 2024. Applications for those pursuing law school fellowships are accepted on a rolling basis.

Students who are interested in a fellowship with the Children's Rights Project should send their resume and cover letter that includes a brief description of their proposal to Directing Attorney, Sharon Balmer Cartagena, at sbalmer@publiccounsel.org.

We value lived experiences, cultural competency, and experiences working with traditionally underrepresented communities and historically oppressed groups across a range of settings. Please discuss such experiences in your cover letter, especially if they are not reflected in your resume.