



2025 Fellowship Announcement

Georgia Justice Project (www.GJP.org) seeks applications from third-year law students or recent law school graduates for sponsorship of a Skadden, Equal Justice Works, or other public-interest fellowship set to begin in the fall of 2025.

ORGANIZATION:

Georgia Justice Project (GJP) is a non-profit law office that serves people currently or previously involved in the criminal legal system. We do this through a combination of direct and holistic legal representation of clients facing criminal charges or dealing with the collateral consequences of a criminal record, outreach and education, and engaging in statewide policy and legislative advocacy. On the legislative front we have had major victories in the last several years that expanded expungement (SB 288), created clear paths for early termination of probation (SB 105) and reduced driver's license suspensions for failing to appear in court (SB 10 and HB 926). Our work is informed by our 38 years of experience representing individuals and our practical understanding of the systemic forces that disproportionately impact people of color and poor people in our community. **With that in mind, our work focuses on two specific goals: reducing the number of people under correctional control in Georgia and reducing barriers to reentry.** While we care deeply about children and families, our work is focused on adults. You can read more about our mission and the wide range of services we provide at GJP.org.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

We are seeking highly motivated applicants to design and implement a project in partnership with our legal team, which will significantly impact our program work and clients. Because the goal of the fellowship is to create a sustainable project, we have identified the following broad areas of need that fit with our strategic plan for growth. The applicant and GJP will develop the specifics of the project together through the application process. We do not expect a fully formed proposal at the time of initial contact.

1. Removing Barriers to Occupational Licensing – 1 in 6 jobs in Georgia require an occupational license, and 1 in 4 high-demand careers, but millions of Georgians with a criminal record are limited, deterred, or rejected from licensed work. A Fellow would continue and expand upon GJP's work to reform occupational licensing laws in Georgia, provide consultation and representation to people with a criminal history as well as training to stakeholders, volunteers, and impacted people. Although GJP is providing limited consultations currently, no organization in Georgia is providing comprehensive assistance to people who cannot afford an attorney around barriers to licensing.
2. Expanding Warrant Resolution Services – GJP is a partner in a joint effort between the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and various community partners to establish a Center for Diversion and Services to provide alternatives to placing people who suffer from behavioral health issues in jail or detention centers. Last year GJP launched a Warrant Clinic to resolve outstanding warrants for residents of the Fulton County Jail. A Fellow would help scale and grow this effort to reach

other parts of Georgia and institute events and efforts in jurisdictions that would address systemic issues leading to unresolved and stale warrants, reducing incarceration.

3. Partnering with Workforce Development agencies to provide legal services – GJP frequently partners with organizations and agencies that are providing training and workforce development support to those who are unemployed or underemployed. There is a large overlap between that population and those with a criminal history or unresolved criminal legal issues. Our partners have asked for more comprehensive legal services. A Fellow would develop and launch a pilot project of partnering with 2 or 3 workforce development organizations to comprehensively address the legal needs of program participants across the breadth of GJP’s programs while training employers and workforce organizations on best practices in Second Chance Hiring.
4. Expanding Legal Support for Veterans – GJP has always served veterans across our programs but has not had a targeted effort at outreach for veterans or the capacity to partner with other veteran-serving organizations. Veterans are over-represented at every stage of the criminal legal system and a focused program is needed. The Fellow would work with partner organizations to bring GJP’s legal services (defense, record clearing, probation, etc.) to underserved Veterans.
5. Implementing a Second Look/Resentencing Program: While many criminal justice reform efforts have focused on the front end, working to reduce the potential for individuals to enter the system, there is a need to advocate for individuals who received unjust and lengthy sentences years ago as well as to pass enabling legislation in Georgia. Second Look legislation would impact those who are currently experiencing incarceration by providing a standardized legal mechanism for courts to resentence or reduce sentences after certain criteria have been met. A Fellow would help advocate for legislative reform while assisting individuals in partnership with local district attorneys.
6. Serving Trans Georgians in the Criminal Legal System – Trans men and women and non-binary people are over-represented in the criminal legal system. While GJP has served Trans people throughout our history, there has been an increase in need and requests for assistance in recent years. A Fellow would work with partner organizations to institute training and best practices and expand access to GJP’s services to the Trans population, addressing unique issues that Trans people face in the criminal legal system.
7. Expanding the reach of record clearing through streamlined models - GJP is the only organization providing record assistance in the state, and many areas are lacking access to record clearing services. A Fellow can identify geographic areas of need in GA and create a targeted approach to increasing access to record clearing through partnership building, community education and direct legal services. The Fellow can engage the faith community and other community partners to implement existing models used by GJP such as larger scale record clearing events and pardon clinics. Ultimately, targeted areas will be left with a structure in place to carry forward record clearing work.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

If you are interested in pursuing a fellowship with GJP as your host organization, please email your resume and a brief (1-2 page) cover letter indicating your preferred area(s) of work as listed above (or describing a project that closely aligns with GJP’s stated goals), your personal interest in this work, and your interest in working at GJP. Also, please include a brief writing sample (or excerpt) of no more than 5-7 pages. Please email these materials (as a single, combined PDF) to Careers@GJP.org. Please

use the subject line “2025 Fellowship Applicant.” Candidates must be sure they will have time to meet with GJP staff and draft the applications from mid-August to mid-September to meet the September deadlines.

GJP will accept applications until August 2nd, 2024, but will consider applications as they are received, and may select a candidate and remove the notice prior to that date.

GJP is an equal opportunity employer to all persons regardless of race, sex, color, age, religion, actual or perceived gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic or national origin, or familial status. We especially invite applicants who are themselves formerly incarcerated or justice-involved, or have family members that are directly impacted by the system.