



HIRING ANNOUNCEMENT – STORYTELLER/CONTENT PRODUCER

Posted April 9, 2021

The Choosing Justice Initiative (CJI) is seeking a creative individual with a passion for justice, a love of people, strong writing abilities, and experience telling compelling personal narratives for a one-year, part-time Fellowship for our **Gideon 2.0 Project**. Our ideal candidate understands the unfair wealth-based disparities that exist in the criminal legal system, is able to connect easily with people from diverse backgrounds, and has experience/training in producing personal narrative media content.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Core Responsibilities

- Collect and document personal experiences people have with court-appointed counsel in Nashville, using written narratives, video testimonies, and case materials
- Follow and document court proceedings and case outcomes when people seek to replace judge-selected appointed counsel using CJI's self-help toolkit
- Create compelling media content from the stories and experiences of people with court-appointed lawyers, and publish on various CJI platforms – website, social media, digital reports, printed reports, etc.
- Cultivate relationships with Participatory Defense and community organizers to develop successful strategies people who cannot afford to hire counsel can use to access effective legal representation
- Work collaboratively with CJI staff and impacted community members to use the compelling personal stories and data captured during the Project to create a final report, one that can be used in a public awareness/advocacy campaign for meaningful changes to Tennessee's court-appointed counsel system

Preferred Knowledge, Experience, and/or Skills (one or more)

- Experience using visual, audio, digital, and other media equipment/programs, as well as content editing software (audio and video, post production, graphic design)
- Strong interpersonal skills including the ability to conduct quality interviews, ask effective questions, and develop rapport/trust with story subjects
- Understanding of story fundamentals (effective character, trajectory, hook, authenticity/details, and calls-to-action)
- Background in journalism, publishing, and/or documentary production
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience repurposing stories across platforms
- Personal experience/interaction with the criminal legal system (i.e., formerly incarcerated/personal involvement in the criminal legal system, or friend/family member to someone who has been incarcerated/involved in criminal legal system)

- Knowledge of the complex relationship between poverty and involvement in the criminal legal system, and an understanding of social, institutional, and systemic causes of poverty
- Bilingual (English & Spanish)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Training and experience in creating audio/video/graphic design/print content
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- A passion for story, narrative structure, and the creative arts
- Ability to devote an average of 30-40 hours/month to the Project for a year
- Reliable transportation and flexible schedule
- Willingness to visit people caged in Tennessee jails/prisons

COMPENSATION

\$1,600 per month, for twelve months, starting as soon as possible.

ABOUT CHOOSING JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Choosing Justice Initiative (CJI) is a public interest law firm working to end wealth-based disparities in the criminal legal system. Our advocacy begins with our clients, who trust us to fight for justice as they define it. We provide free legal representation to people in Nashville facing criminal charges who cannot afford to hire a lawyer, and we are the only place in Tennessee where people can get free legal representation for civil matters related to their criminal case. Drawing upon our clients' experiences, CJI also advocates for the systemic changes necessary to end unfair policies, practices and laws that perpetuate racism, poverty, and other forms of injustice and harm in the criminal legal system. To learn more about us, visit our website at www.cjinashville.org.

The Gideon 2.0 Project is part of CJI's work to expose the routine injustices caused by Tennessee's court-appointed counsel system, and to aid people who are directly impacted by it to advocate for the effective legal representation they need and deserve. **This position is funded by a grant from the American Bar Endowment, and CJI is grateful for their generous support.**

HOW TO APPLY

Email a cover letter, resume, and a *digital content work sample* to Erica Duggan at ericaduggan@cjnashville.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please. CJI is an equal opportunity employer, and does not discriminate in hiring or employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or criminal record.