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Youth Justice Fellowship

The Northern Justice Project (NJP) is hiring an attorney to represent foster youth in individual proceedings and in impact litigation regarding the rights of foster youth.

This is a one-year fellowship to start in Fall 2026. There may be the possibility to extend the fellowship or transition to permanent employment.

About Northern Justice Project

The Northern Justice Project (NJP) is Alaska's preeminent civil rights firm. We are a small, private firm that represents Alaskans in public interest lawsuits against the state and federal governments and large corporations.

NJP frequently represents foster youth via direct service in child welfare proceedings and in impact litigation. We have won impact cases [protecting foster youth's constitutional rights to their public benefits](#), advocated against the [forced drugging of foster youth in residential treatment facilities](#), and have successfully placed many foster youth back with either their parents or safe adults they trust.

About the Youth Justice Fellowship

The Fellow will be the lead attorney in representing individual foster youth in child in need of aid proceedings. Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases are Alaska's child protection cases, and determine whether a child can safely return to their parents, enter into a guardianship, or will have their parents' rights terminated and be adopted. These cases often span years and, without adequate representation, a youth will often languish in foster care without consistent support and a path out of the system. In Alaska, a youth has a right to free counsel any time they are placed in a residential treatment facility, or any time it is ordered by a judge in the interest of justice. A youth's attorney can advocate for or against certain foster placements, for or against medication, for or against different schooling options, to keep siblings together, and so much more.

The Fellow will be responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with youth clients and advocating on their behalf in frequent court hearings. The Fellow can expect to be in court at least once every week and will quickly develop courtroom experience. These CINA cases also consist of a lot of discovery, discrete motion practice, and the need to advocate amongst multiple parties: caseworkers, Guardians ad litem, parents' attorneys, and Alaska Native Tribes.

In addition to direct service, the Fellow will assist the firm in its impact litigation regarding foster youth. The Fellow will assist in developing impact litigation based on their clients' lived experiences and needs, as well as assist in the firm's existing litigation.

Location

The Fellow may work in the Anchorage or Fairbanks office with the option for occasional remote work. Because the Fellow must develop strong relationships with youth clients and frequently appear in court, fully remote work is not possible.

Qualifications

Fellows must have graduated from law school and become admitted to the Alaska Bar. The fellowship will involve frequent court appearances, so the fellow must be comfortable and excited to advocate in court.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Knowledge of the foster care system and challenges facing foster youth;
- Excellent legal analysis and writing skills;
- The ability to handle a fast-paced and varied caseload;
- Basic civil rights litigation skills, including knowledge of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and class action litigation;
- Exceptional emotional and social intelligence.

Compensation

The fellow will receive \$70,000 annual salary, plus healthcare. Please note that NJP is not a nonprofit, so the fellowship might not count toward loan forgiveness.

Application

Please send a resume and letter of interest to Savannah Fletcher at sfletcher@njp-law.com by January 30, 2026. If you want to learn more about the fellowship before applying, feel free to reach out via email to schedule an informal interview.