



JACKSONVILLE AREA
Legal Aid

Staff Attorney, Veteran Services Unit - Family Law focus

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing legal assistance and advocacy for low-income individuals and families. We work to ensure access to justice and fair treatment in the areas of housing, consumer rights, family law and other essential legal services. JALA's dedicated Veteran Services Unit (VSU) provides free services and legal representation to Northeast Florida veterans. Demand for VSU family law services has only increased since the unit's inception in 2019.

JOB DESCRIPTION

JALA seeks an experienced family law attorney for its Veteran Services Unit located in our Jacksonville office. This is a full-time legal role, dedicated to serving local veterans and active-duty service members. The candidate must be a member of the Florida Bar with at least 3 years of experience in the practice of marital and family law, including, but not limited to, dissolution of marriage, establishing and modifying child support, paternity, and injunctions for protection. The position requires the ability to identify additional needs of clients in various other areas of law such as consumer, housing, employment, and VA benefits.

The candidate should have experience working with veterans/active-duty military and understand military/government retirement and related financial documents. The candidate should be able to work with clients who have experienced or are currently experiencing trauma as many veteran clients come to us with PTSD-related issues that are often compounded by or catalysts for their legal issues. Those with prior military service will be strongly considered, though such service is not required.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

- Conduct applicant intake and client interviews
- Provide exhaustive advice and counsel to individuals seeking legal assistance
- Draft legally sufficient pleadings and motions
- Effectively represent clients in mediation and in settlement discussions
- Zealous representation of clients in depositions, hearings, and at trial
- Timely compliance with grant requirements
- Supervise support staff
- Assist in the planning of and participation in clinics and outreach events
- Maintain current knowledge and understanding of applicable case law, statutes, and court rules

QUALIFICATIONS

- Member in good standing of The Florida Bar
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in marital and family law
- Familiarity with the Florida Family Law Rules of Civil Procedure
- Experience working with veterans and/or active-duty service members

What you get when you come to JALA

JALA is the premier litigation legal aid firm in the Southeastern United States. We are mission driven, and our team makes a difference in our community. As a JALA employee, you can expect immediate hands-on

experience interviewing and counseling clients as well as litigating cases in Federal and State court. Staff can expect to take on challenging cases for our at-risk clients while being mentored and supported in taking on such cases. While there is a premium placed on initiative and self-motivation, you can expect to be supervised by lawyers who are recognized as subject matter experts in their field (JALA is the only law firm in Florida with *three* Florida Bar Consumer Protection Lawyers of the Year on staff, for example.) Our lawyers and paralegals regularly serve on local and statewide committees, and our lawyers have gone on to become hearing officers, magistrates, judges and administrative law judges. In addition to the opportunity to litigate early, our lawyers and staff are trusted as professionals - we have adopted a hybrid work environment (although not all positions are able to work remotely.) Regardless of what others may prefer, we embrace diversity and inclusion as a way to ensure we are the most prepared to offer the best and highest level of representation for our clients, as this is what they deserve from us.

Salary/Benefits

Salary commensurate with experience. Sign-on bonus. Benefits package include, but are not limited to, hybrid work model, medical, dental, vision, long-term disability insurance, group life insurance, 401(k) (match 100% of deferrals up to 6% of compensation), generous leave policy (13 paid holidays plus 22 personal leave days in first year, one-month sabbatical every four years), and membership in Access Perks, a private discount network.

To apply, submit resume, minimum of two professional references, and salary requirements to:

La Verne Morgan Andreasen, Esq., Chief Human Resources Officer
Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
126 West Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Email: resumeattorney@jaxlegalaid.org

All employees must clear Florida's Level II background screening. Information on the background screening process can be found on the <https://info.flclearinghouse.com/>.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid is an Equal Opportunity Employer