



American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia

Go South Summer Fellow

About Our Organization: The ACLU of West Virginia is a non-partisan, non-profit public interest organization dedicated to protecting and expanding civil liberties for all people in West Virginia. A major focus of our work is to extend the promise of the Bill of Rights to those groups who have traditionally been denied its protections. Given the policies currently being pursued in Washington and Charleston, we believe that our mission is as relevant and important today as it has been at any point in our 100 year history.

How We're Advancing Equity in Appalachia: The ACLU-WV is a leader in the fight to make West Virginia a more welcoming and peaceful home for all. Through litigation, policy advocacy, community organizing, and public education we are transforming our region. We are reforming our broken system of mass incarceration, working to help build power in immigrant communities, fighting the criminalization of poverty, standing up for the rights of LGBTQ youth, protecting the right to vote, clogging up the school to prison pipeline and helping ensure continued access to reproductive healthcare in central Appalachia. A Summer Fellow would be part of our fast-paced, collegial work environment where they'd get to work alongside a brilliant, hard-working, committed group of activists.

About the Role: The Summer Fellow would focus on research, writing and advocacy around the scourge of mass incarceration and West Virginia's broken juvenile justice system. ACLU-WV is investing significant resources into our criminal and juvenile justice reform work. We've already seen some successes, but our goals are transformative---to reduce the number of people in cages in our state by 50% and the number of children locked up by 75% in the next 10 years. The Summer Fellow will work under the supervision of the Policy Director and Executive Director to develop internal and outward facing reports to aid our anticipated work during the 2021 legislative session relevant to our criminal justice and juvenile justice reform campaigns.

Responsibilities:

- At the direction of the Policy Director and Executive Director, conduct research projects on West Virginia's criminal justice system.
- Write internal memoranda summarizing research findings.
- Draft external communications related to criminal justice and juvenile justice reform.
- Meet with allies and directly impacted individuals to guide your work.
- Analyze the records of candidates for office as it relates to criminal justice and juvenile justice issues.
- Other duties as assigned by the Policy Director and Executive Director

Key Skills & Qualifications:

- Strong written and oral communications skills.
- Strong research skills.
- A history of working collaboratively and successfully with people and organizations from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and a broad range of ideological positions and religious views.
- Creative, results-oriented, self-starting, and willing to learn.
- Strong task and time management skills.
- Committed to the mission of the ACLU-WV.

Please feel free to reach out to ACLU-WV Executive Director Joseph Cohen with any questions at 304-345-9246 ext. 103 or jcohen@acluwv.org.