


Youth Justice Lawyer (Crime)

	Role Description
Job title	Youth Justice Lawyer (Crime)
Reporting to	Legal Director
Organisation purpose	<p>Just for Kids Law exists to work with and for children and young people to hold those with power to account and fight for wider reform. We do this by providing legal representation and advice and through strategic litigation, policy influencing and campaigning.</p>
Context	<p>The Legal Team is a small, busy and responsive team comprised of lawyers working in the fields of Youth Justice (Crime), and Public Law.</p>
Role purpose	<p>Working with the Legal Director you will assist in the delivery of JFKL's criminal legal aid contract by representing young people in court and police stations as well as maintaining and managing a caseload.</p>
Key accountabilities	Key Activities/Tasks
Casework & Litigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing high quality advice and representation including Advocacy for individual clients with a high degree of professionalism, and conducting work in such a way as to meet relevant external standards (e.g. Specialist Quality Mark, SRA, BSB and OISC etc.) • Conducting sometimes complex litigation on behalf of clients and JFKL, using legal aid and occasionally other sources of funding • Analysing complex factual and legal situations and advising as to the way forward • Maintaining a culture of client care in terms of service delivery • Maintaining a caseload of a reasonable size in order to meet team financial targets • Ensuring that all time recording is entered onto the JFKL Case Management System to enable accurate reporting and maximize income • Undertaking billing in a timely and appropriate way to ensure regular cash flow to JFKL • Providing authoritative legal advice to clients, practitioners and organisations on youth justice/criminal legal issues including public speaking and contributing to publications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training internally and to externally
Cross-organisational team working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting as an active member of JFKL legal team, attending meetings and representing the Youth Justice team as and when required • Contributing to cross organisational communications, campaigns and other projects • Providing legal advice, guidance and support • Advising other staff within the wider JFKL team on issues relating to their clients where these have a Youth Justice component. • Work closely with the Policy and Campaigning Team to report trends arising from your work and contribute ideas. This may involve contributing to the preparation of written responses on Youth Justice issues and representing JFKL at external meetings.
General responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Co-Leads in the preparation of funding applications and requirements • Proactively generating new clients • Attending and participating in internal, external meetings as required including meetings outside of normal working hours where necessary • Being a positive, cooperative, and constructive team member, upholding the values of JFKL • Complying with JFKL's monitoring and recording requirements both internally for Co-Leads/Board and externally for Funders, Stakeholders and the Legal Aid Agency • Ensuring compliance with the Solicitors Regulation Authority, BSB and OISC requirements where appropriate. Including maintaining a Personal Competence record of all objectives in terms of training and development needs and any courses or training undertaken to evidence compliance • Representing and promoting the organisation's work positively • Carrying out all work with due regard to JFKL's policies and procedures • Promoting Equality and Diversity principles in all aspects of work
Other duties	You will be expected to carry out any other duties which fall reasonably within this role.
<p>Updating this role description</p> <p>This is a description of the job as it is presently constituted. It is the practice of Just for Kids Law to periodically review role descriptions and to update them. This process will be conducted in consultation with you. It is the aim of the organisation to reach agreement on any changes but if agreement cannot be reached, the organisation reserves the right to insist on such changes to your job description, after consultation with you.</p>	

Standing up for kids

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Person Specification

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	Essential (must have in order to carry out the work)	Desirable (not essential but preferable)
<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the youth sector and issues affecting children and young people in the youth justice system • Knowledge of the legal rights and entitlements of children and young people in the youth justice system, in particular, the rights of children at the police station and in criminal proceedings • Knowledge of the legislation and legal framework for youth justice • Knowledge of the legal aid system • Understanding of the principles and practice of representing young people. 	<p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p>	
<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years post qualification legal experience • Experience of representing children at the police station and in criminal proceedings • Experience of direct client work, providing advice and conducting litigation • Experience of influencing public policy • Experience of training professionals 	<p>x</p> <p>x</p>	<p>x</p> <p>x</p>
<p>Qualifications and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree in law or other Degree and relevant conversion equivalent • Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Course • Practising solicitor or barrister 	<p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p>	
<p>Skills and abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent writing and communication skills. • Ability to build rapport and trust with children and young people. • Ability to deal with confidential and sensitive issues discreetly. • Ability to work flexibly and manage a range of tasks whilst meeting competing deadlines. • Ability to use own initiative and take responsibility to get things done. • Ability to present cases in court with confidence and accuracy 	<p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p> <p>x</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work effectively as part of a small team 		
Qualities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for children and young people and a champion for their rights. • A commitment to children and young people’s participation and youth engagement. • Energetic, self-motivated and organised individual demonstrating interest in and commitment to the organisation’s objectives. • Enthusiastic about working for this young and ambitious organisation. • Enjoy working with young people from diverse backgrounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x x x x x 	
Other requirements A willingness to work occasional evenings and weekends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x 	

December 2023