

**NOTE: This opportunity is restricted to Roger Williams University School of Law graduates from the class of 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, or 2013.**

**To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and law school transcript to John Willumsen-Friedman, at [jwillumsen@centerforjustice.org](mailto:jwillumsen@centerforjustice.org). Interviews will take place May-August of 2017 for an anticipated start date of September 4, 2017.**

**Organization:** The Rhode Island Center for Justice

**Position:** Roger Williams University School of Law Fellow

**Full-Time or Part-Time:** Full-time, 2 year term, beginning in September 2017

**Salary:** 50k with strong benefits package

**Requirements:** Roger Williams University School of Law Graduate within the past 5 years

**Start:** September 2017

**YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR THE  
RWU/R.I. CENTER FOR JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP IF:**

- **You are a self-starter who is passionate about advancing social and economic justice through the law;**
- **You went to law school because you want to be a public interest law leader and dedicate your practice to remediating social and economic inequities by representing people who are often unrepresented or underrepresented;**
- **You want to put the skills you have acquired in law school to use in a dynamic non-profit public interest law practice that is building and growing to meet previously unmet needs in the Rhode Island community;**
- **You are hungry for the opportunity to be part of a committed, capable legal team and to conduct important case work with the support and supervision of dedicated, experienced public interest attorneys.**

**Organization Description:**

The RI Center for Justice is a non-profit public interest law office working to increase access to justice in our State. The Center provides free civil legal assistance to low-income Rhode Islanders, engages in key impact litigation affecting the rights and wellbeing of thousands across the State, and conducts legislative and policy advocacy on behalf of the communities we serve. The goals of the Center for Justice include: protecting the legal rights of low-income people, fighting for social and economic justice, and potentiating long-term solutions to the entrenched challenges our society faces.

**Position Summary:**

The Center for Justice seeks at least one Fellow for the 2017-2019 term. The Fellow will provide civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and families across a variety of practice areas. The

Fellow(s) will work in close collaboration with the Executive Director and the Center's other licensed attorneys in a collegial, dynamic atmosphere with a focus on commonly held goals. Supportive supervision will be provided to foster a creative and entrepreneurial approach to the work of the Center, with a clear focus on skills-building and rapid professional development. In addition, the Fellow(s) will have the opportunity to engage directly with community-based and grass-roots organizations to support and expand lasting social and economic justice efforts.

The unmet legal need the Center seeks to address is significant. The Fellow(s) will assist in crafting an innovative and intelligent response to this need and will contribute to every facet of the Center's programmatic output, within a safe, dedicated, inclusive work environment and culture. The rewards of the work at the Center for Justice are in proportion to the Fellow's efforts and enthusiasm. This can be the post-law school learning experience that can place a Fellow on the path of career success in public interest law – or indeed any area of practice that requires solid preparation and exciting, high-impact practical experiences right out of law school.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Fellows will have **the following primary responsibilities:**

#### **1. Direct client representation, advice and counsel**

Some of the specific duties associated with this responsibility include:

- Providing free, civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and families in the Center's practice areas, ranging from brief advice and counsel to post-litigation assistance;
- Representing clients in the courtroom and administrative and judicial fora;
- Advocating for clients in creative and novel ways beyond the courtroom;
- Performing timely client follow-up and case management;
- Using client management software to track and monitor cases;
- Working with pro bono attorneys; and
- Participating in regular intake and case review meetings to assess community needs.

#### **2. Community engagement and outreach**

Some of the specific duties associated with this responsibility include:

- Traveling across the state to conduct workshops, info sessions and trainings in community-based service and advocacy organizations;
- Working with community groups and attending meetings around social, environmental and economic justice issues;
- Developing and researching policy-based responses to systemic abuses or denial of rights; and
- Understanding the services offered by other non-profits and drawing upon these resources to most effectively serve clients.

### **Qualifications:**

- A JD degree from Roger Williams University School of Law;
- Admitted to practice in Rhode Island (pending July 2017 bar results);
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Good academic record;
- Experience in a law office setting, or in a clinic or externship;
- Fluency in a language other than English is strongly preferred but not required (Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian or others are all valuable); and
- Commitment to public interest law.

The ideal candidate will be driven, compassionate, committed to social change through the tools of the law, and eager to work in a collaborative and energetic atmosphere. Candidates invited for an interview are encouraged to consider their vision for the role the Rhode Island Center for Justice will play in transforming the legal landscape in Rhode Island and how they wish to participate in that work.

**Benefits:**

The fellowship is salaried at \$50,000/year, plus benefits, for a two year term. Depending on individual circumstances, this position may qualify for RWU Law's Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program (PILRAP) and/or national loan forgiveness.

The Fellow will gain a depth of practical experience, become rooted in the legal community of Rhode Island, and learn an approach to law that values and teaches creative problem-solving, effective practice, and efficient time management. At the end of the two-year term, the Fellow will be a prepared, well trained attorney with a well-established network of attorneys of varying levels of experience and a range of subject-matter expertise.

The Center is an equal opportunity employer. The Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sexual orientation.