

## **JOB OPENING**

### **STAFF ATTORNEY TEXAS FAIR DEFENSE PROJECT**

#### **About the Texas Fair Defense Project**

The Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP) is a nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas. TFDP works to improve the fairness and accuracy of the criminal justice system in Texas, with a primary focus on improving access to counsel and the quality of representation provided to poor people accused of crime. TFDP defends the rights of indigent criminal defendants through litigation, education, and advocacy.

#### **Job Description**

The Staff Attorney will develop and litigate cases challenging illegal indigent defense practices, under the supervision of TFDP's Executive Director. The work includes reviewing requests for assistance, investigating indigent defense practices, initiating litigation, soliciting pro bono counsel, and co-counseling cases in litigation with pro bono counsel. The Staff Attorney also will provide technical assistance and legal advice to attorneys and others who seek help from TFDP, and draft model pleadings related to TFDP's mission. The Staff Attorney will have responsibility for supervision of law students and volunteers. The Staff Attorney also may represent TFDP in public education efforts, in legislative advocacy efforts, and with the media.

#### **Qualifications**

Applicants must have excellent research and written and verbal communication skills. Applicants must be self-motivated, capable of complex analytical work, and have strong interpersonal skills. Applicants must be available for travel within Texas. Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law, and experience with criminal justice issues is preferred. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of three years' experience litigating civil rights cases. Applicants must be members of the Texas bar or be willing to sit for the next Texas bar exam.

#### **Salary and Benefits**

Salary is commensurate with experience, and a benefits package is provided.

#### **To Apply**

Applications should consist of a cover letter explaining your interest in our work, a resume, the names and addresses of two references, and a legal writing sample. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, which will not be before June 30, 2008. Applications should be sent to:

Andrea Marsh, Executive Director  
Texas Fair Defense Project  
510 South Congress Avenue, Suite 208  
Austin, TX 78704  
amarsh@texasfairdefenseproject.org

