



## Senior Staff Attorney

The Midwest Innocence Project (MIP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit legal defense organization dedicated to freeing individuals convicted of crimes they did not commit, supporting them upon their release, and changing policy to prevent wrongful convictions in our five-state region (MO, KS, NE, IA, AR) The MIP seeks a Senior Staff Attorney with a demonstrated passion for social justice. The Senior Staff Attorney position will be a full-time remote position with the option to work in-office in Kansas City, Missouri and will report to the Managing Attorney.

The Senior Staff Attorney will be responsible for investigating and litigating cases involving claims of innocence in post-conviction appeals in state and federal courts. The position involves working collaboratively with the other attorneys, paralegals and investigators reinvestigating wrongful convictions to exonerate those clients. This position also involves extensive writing, including advocacy letters and research pieces, as well as motions to vacate the convictions.

### Responsibilities include

- Represent MIP clients claiming actual innocence in postconviction matters in state and federal court to achieve the (1) vacation of conviction and sentence, (2) dismissal of all charges, and (3) release from prison. In doing so, the Staff Attorney is expected to:
  - Collaborate with MIP staff investigators and/or contract investigators to develop and execute fact investigation to support the development of postconviction claims;
  - Retain expert services—including but not limited to DNA testing, expert case review, forensic analysis or reanalysis of evidence—necessary to develop viable postconviction claims;
  - Draft and file all necessary pleadings in accepted cases;
  - Prepare for and litigate all hearings and oral arguments in assigned cases;
  - Manage litigation tasks and workflow in MIP’s case management system, Clio, to ensure compliance with all case-based deadlines;
  - Maintain organized physical and digital case files;
  - Maintain regular communication with clients through legal calls, written communication, and in-person visits, to provide clients with legal advice regarding their cases;
  - Travel as necessary to complete these and other case-related tasks;
  - Collaborate with MIP Social Workers in developing social services plans for clients that is sensitive to the needs and interests of the clients’ individual legal cases;
- Take part in special litigation or policy projects, as assigned by the Executive Director.

Position Requirements:

- Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school
- Bar license from either Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska or Arkansas, or the ability to become licensed, and/or familiarity with state and federal court systems in the region
- Minimum of three years legal experience, including either appellate experience or litigation with extensive legal writing experience
- Sufficient litigation experience to be able to litigate a postconviction hearing
- Excellent legal research and analysis skills
- Excellent legal writing skills
- Excellent collaboration skills, including the ability to foster constructive, respectful working relationships with colleagues and coalition partners
- Computer Skills including Microsoft Office, case management software, and other relevant tools and applications.

The selected candidate must be detail oriented and have superior organizational, oral communication, writing and interpersonal skills. The ideal candidate must be a self-starter, have experience in direct litigation and providing oversight for litigation processes, and be passionate about criminal justice issues.

**Application Instructions:**

Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and a list of references to [jobs@themip.org](mailto:jobs@themip.org). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis with priority given to applications received by April 5, 2024. Salary range is \$75,000-\$125,000 DOE. MIP offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including PTO, health/dental/vision insurance, 401(3)b retirement account access, a five- year sabbatical policy and positive, anti-racist, engaging, and flexible work environment.

The Midwest Innocence Project is an equal opportunity employer and strives for diversity among its applicant pool as well as within its staff and board. We strongly encourage people from all backgrounds, especially racial, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation minorities, veterans, people with disabilities, and smart people with non-linear/non-traditional experience and educational backgrounds to apply for this position. Most importantly, no matter their background, the person selected for this position must embrace, advocate for, and deeply value equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

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