

**Statement of Pro Bono Assistance Need**  
**Appleseed and Appleseed Centers throughout the U.S.**  
**August 18, 2009**

Appleseed is pleased to announce the attached pro bono opportunities for 2009-2010. We at Appleseed are grateful for law firm programs to offer associates, counsel, and the incoming class of 2009 an opportunity to pursue work with public interest organizations for a one-year period before returning to their firms. We are extremely interested in matching your attorneys with our national office in Washington, D.C. and our Centers. Please consult our website at [www.appleseednetwork.org](http://www.appleseednetwork.org) for additional information about our projects and achievements.

I am available to make introductions, arrange interviews, and do anything I can to facilitate this process.

**Meredith Barnes Driscoll**

*Operations Director*

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United Way #9639

CFC #10758

**Appleseed**

*"Pro Bono's New Frontier" - American Lawyer Magazine*

Appleseed is a nonprofit network of public interest justice centers and professionals dedicated to building a society where opportunities are genuine, access to the law is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

## Opportunities at National Appleseed

### 1. Immigration Associate

The overall goal of Appleseed's immigration rights work is to spotlight injustice and add diverse voices to our overall mission of protecting and promoting civil rights. The Appleseed Immigration Associate will work with the national office of Appleseed in Washington, D.C., Center staffs in the US and Mexico and community networks and coalitions to coordinate effective policy development and advocacy around immigrants' rights issues, including issues on the national forefront, such as proposed local agreements with the Department of Justice to enforce immigration laws, as well as issues driven by local networks, including language access and workers' rights.

The Associate will work with multiple Appleseed Centers on collaborative immigrants' rights projects and will take a leadership role in helping Centers craft their own strategic plans to combat anti-immigrant ordinances and legislation. Support for Center initiatives could include securing pro bono research and scoping work from law firms, supervising this work when it is placed with a firm, developing with Centers advocacy strategies for the use of the work product, conducting other forms of research and developing amicus briefs.

The Immigration Associate will have a role in these current projects of the national office of Appleseed:

- a. Top priority is ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of *Assembly Line Injustice* -- a comprehensive blueprint for reform of the immigration courts drafted by Latham & Watkins and Akin Gump -- through means such as arranging for meetings with decision-makers; preparing targeted memoranda; shopping projects to firms and reviewing their work; securing conference invitations and preparing conference materials; and working with the Communications Deputy and Grants Manager to keep allies and funders in the loop.
- b. Work with Appleseed Centers to harness grassroots support and state or courthouse level changes for the changes we advocate, through *Assembly Line Injustice* and other immigration-related work.
- c. Coordinate work of DLA Piper, Mayer Brown and Akin Gump with respect to unaccompanied minors project, (site visit program monitoring *Flores*); ensure that inspection team members are oriented to working with Appleseed; help oversee and disseminate their work.
- d. Pro bono representation project – work with DLA, Mayer Brown and Akin Gump to ensure that a national registry of qualified pro bono counsel is

compiled – moving towards the goal of ensuring that pro bono counsel is available and willing to represent every UAC in custody of DUCS/ORR.

- e. Serve as expert/point person on Trafficking Act/Regulatory Implementation project, which may involve helping DHS, HHS, State and DOJ develop written policies and procedures that implement the protections for unaccompanied children of the Trafficking Act and other laws protecting unaccompanied children.
- f. Help craft successful grants funding programs for immigration pro bono projects. Goals are two-fold: to fund Centers and national Appleseed office in immigrant policy work and to secure staff support at the national level for after the fellowship ends.
- g. Coordinate calls among Appleseed Centers on immigration work, including but not limited to Assembly Line Injustice and Unaccompanied Children's work, as well as work generated at the Center level.
- h. Identify noteworthy cross-learning opportunities among Centers in the immigration field – where they have successfully battled anti-immigrant ordinances and regulations or promoted welcoming campaigns; prepare as case studies and disseminate.
- i. Appleseed's New York office (part of the national office) has many projects that advance the rights, health, and financial empowerment of immigrant communities. Assist its director, Jennifer Ching, as needed to advance her work in New York and ensure its replicability in other Centers.

## 2. Collaborative Projects Coordinator

The Collaborative Projects Coordinator will work with the national office of Appleseed in Washington, D.C., Center staffs in the US and Mexico and community networks and coalitions to coordinate effective policy development and advocacy for solutions to deep-seated structural problems. To this end, the Coordinator will provide management and oversight to many of Appleseed's projects and volunteers.

Responsibilities include:

### **Project Management**

- Draft MOUs and engagement letters to define projects
- Ensure successful inception and implementation of projects
- Work with pro bono firms on a regular basis to execute projects
- Schedule and facilitate calls with project partners
- Conduct background research for projects
- Generate creative project thinking
- Create and maintain project plans that track goals and deadlines
- Be aware of and address project deadlines in advance of the target date
- Review projects on a regular basis to identify problems
- Monitor interest and responsiveness of Centers and volunteers

In all work, Center Collaboration is critical. Ensure that work ensures transparency, accountability, and communication with Centers.

### **Other**

- Give periodic updates to Collaborative Projects Committee as needed
- Find ways for projects to increase Appleseed's visibility by collaborating with Communications Associate on project edits, planning conferences, etc.
- Other duties as assigned

Both positions are unfunded for one year for a legal fellow, who is responsible for his or her own health care. The organization has no money for incidentals. We are open to deferred associates, attorneys on sabbatical and retired attorneys. The positions are open for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter via email to:

Betsy Cavendish

Executive Director

Appleseed

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## **Pro Bono Opportunities at Nebraska Appleseed**

Nebraska Appleseed is a nationally recognized, non-partisan, non-profit public interest law firm that seeks to create equal justice and full opportunity for all Nebraskans through systemic litigation, public policy advocacy, and community outreach and education. Appleseed uses these strategies to positively impact low-income families, immigrants, children in foster care, and access to health care.

Nebraska Appleseed currently has two positions open to deferred attorneys. Both positions are supervised by Nebraska Appleseed staff attorneys who have 5-10 years of experience in public interest law. The first position is a staff attorney position with our Health Care Access Program. The work plan includes (1) analyzing federal and state law related to comprehensive health care reform, children's health care coverage, Medicaid reform, and small business health care, (2) helping to promote positive policy changes and defending/protecting the rights of low-income families in these areas through impact litigation and public policy advocacy, and (3) drafting resources on various health care issues including writing policy briefs and drafting advocacy materials.

The second position is a staff attorney position with our Child Welfare System Accountability Program. The work plan includes (1) analyzing federal and state law related to privatization of Nebraska's child welfare program and implementation of state legislation targeted to limiting immigrant access to child welfare services, (2) helping to promote positive policy change and defending/protecting the rights of children in foster care through impact litigation and public policy advocacy, and (3) drafting resources on various child welfare issues including writing policy briefs and drafting advocacy materials.

This is an unpaid position with no money for incidentals. Positions are available for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter via email to:

**Nebraska Appleseed**

Becky Gould

Executive Director

Nebraska Appleseed

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## **Pro Bono Opportunities at Louisiana Appleseed**

In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and the hurricanes of 2008, the disparate impact on Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens continues. Louisiana Appleseed is working to address these inequities, developing and implementing programs designed to ensure equal access to opportunity, justice and education for the most vulnerable residents of our state. We could use one to two fellows as a state-wide outreach coordinator, law-school liaison/relationship builder/project coordinator and/or project leader for one or more new projects.

This is currently an unpaid position, with the possibility of seeking grant funding in the future. Fellows should commit to one year, with a flexible start date. Position is open for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter via email to:

### **Louisiana Appleseed**

Christy Kane

Executive Director

Louisiana Appleseed

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## **Pro Bono Opportunity at New Mexico Appleseed**

New Mexico has existed at an alarming poverty level for years. Yet, as more New Mexicans lose jobs with the souring economy, the state's poor residents are now as vulnerable as ever.

One in four children do not know where their next meal will come from. Nearly every educational indicator places New Mexico near the bottom of the country compared to other states. The combination of hunger, a lack of state infrastructure addressing the needs of the poor and a limping educational system has placed poor New Mexicans, particularly children, in critical condition. New Mexico Appleseed is working to address the systemic reasons for barriers to children going to school with full stomachs and leaving with full minds. New Mexico Appleseed would utilize a fellow to help identify and lower those policy/regulatory/legislative hurdles to a healthier and well educated New Mexico.

New Mexico Appleseed could utilize several fellows who commit at least six months. This is an unpaid position with no money for incidentals. Positions are available for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The fellow may live/work in Santa Fe or Albuquerque.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter via email to:

### **New Mexico Appleseed**

Jenny Ramo

Executive Director

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