



# PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research and Investigations Specialist
<b>Organization:</b>	Southern Poverty Law Center
<b>Location:</b>	Montgomery, AL
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$65,000 with health insurance for fellow
<b>Start Date:</b>	August 1, 2016

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. SPLC attorneys fight to protect society's most vulnerable members, handling important civil rights cases that few lawyers are willing to take. The SPLC has remained in the vanguard of efforts to defend victims of injustice, continuing its commitment to juvenile justice reform and the rights of children while vigorously protecting the rights of the LGBT community, the poor, and exploited immigrants. The SPLC maintains a presence with juvenile justice and children's rights projects in four states: Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. Its immigrant justice project, based in Atlanta, covers nine Southern states.

Our Communications Department amplifies our work and increases the national profile of SPLC on behalf of children at risk, prisoners, immigrants, the LGBT community, victims of hate crimes, people living in poverty, and other victims of injustice. The SPLC's overall communications strategy and goals are to raise public awareness of issues involving ongoing social and economic injustice, change the public discourse, and start national discussions so that leaders must take action. We achieve this not only by bringing creative and effective litigation to highlight compelling narratives of injustice and obtaining reform through the courts, but also by presenting the kind of stories that capture the public's attention. In addition, we strategically use our communications toolbox to raise public consciousness by highlighting racist elements in public life in order to isolate them from the mainstream and counter their influence. The Communications Department works both independently and with the organization's subject matter experts to produce white papers, investigative reports, fact sheets, press releases, op-eds, congressional testimony, articles, and other materials (links to some of our white papers are included, below.)

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research and Investigations Specialist will play a key role in our Communications Department through using policy and social science research to inform our communication strategies, goals and outputs. The Research and Investigations Specialist will be charged with conducting research that furthers the SPLC's programmatic priorities and advocacy work. This may include contributing to policy papers on pressing social justice concerns, investigative reports, website content, and articles.

This position is *only* available through the ACLS Public Fellows program.  
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

Examples of the kinds of projects the Research and Investigations Specialist might work on that are currently underway include:

- Write, edit, and curate content for SPLC digital media platforms;
- Long-form investigative reporting on issues that further SPLC’s programmatic priorities;
- Monitor news developments and data releases for opportunities to create compelling and original content;
- Collect, analyze, and interpret data;
- Work with attorneys, advocates, and researchers to develop social media content in service of campaigns and reports;
- Build relationships with ally organizations and journalists; and
- Measure and report the impact of the department to leadership and other stakeholders.

Examples of SPLC’s white papers include “[Cruel Confinement: Abuse, Discrimination and Death within Alabama’s Prisons](#)” and “[Close to Slavery: Guestworker Programs in the United States.](#)”

## **REQUIRED AND PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

Required Qualifications:

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Experience in data collection and analysis preferred;
- Strong writing and communication skills, including the ability to summarize academic research, legislation, and regulations;
- Initiative, vision, and a strong commitment to social justice;
- Ability to multi-task in fast-paced environment;
- Strong organizational skills, ability to independently manage priorities;
- A creative self-starter;
- A team player; and
- Ability to work efficiently and meet deadlines.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working with and for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, including at-risk youth, children with disabilities, and individuals involved in the juvenile and/or criminal justice systems.

## **APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the ACLS Public Fellows Program: [www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows](http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows)
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System ([ofa.acls.org](http://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: March 24, 2016, 8 pm Eastern Daylight Time

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