



SIXTH
AMENDMENT
CENTER

P.O. Box 15556, Boston MA 02215

Senior Program Associate – Research Analyst

Job Posting & Position Description

Organization

The Sixth Amendment Center (6AC) is a national non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that no person faces potential time in jail or prison without first having the aid of a lawyer with the time, ability and resources to present an effective defense, as required under the United States Constitution. We do so by measuring public defense systems against Sixth Amendment case law and established standards of justice. When shortcomings are identified, we help states and counties make their courts fair again in ways that promote public safety and fiscal responsibility.

Founded in 2013, 6AC is not your typical non-profit organization. Helping to ensure equal access to justice for people of limited means requires us to operate differently. Our staff is decentralized, working remotely from locations throughout the country, with the tools and processes that maximize our efficiency in delivering services out to the field. Because 6AC is not a membership organization, we are widely regarded by policymakers and criminal justice stakeholders as the most objective and reliable source of detailed information about jurisdictional successes and failings in providing the right to counsel to the poor.

Position Summary

As an integral part of 6AC's work, the Senior Program Associate will play a vital role in enhancing the 6AC's data-driven research on right to counsel issues throughout the United States and abroad. One of the largest impediments to securing the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment is the lack of accurate and current information about its provision in all of our country's courts. The 6AC is working to fill that information gap.

The Senior Program Associate will be responsible for collecting, aggregating, analyzing, and reporting on indigent defense system data across multiple state and county jurisdictions, as well as internationally. The work may include working with statistical administrative data, qualitative interview data, and planning and implementing original data collection, so skills and experience in diverse research activities is desirable. The position requires a combination of analytical and interpersonal skills, as the ideal candidate has the ability to communicate effectively with

external criminal justice system stakeholders, perform rigorous data analyses, and then deliver these results to a non-technical internal and external audience.

Working alongside all 6AC staff, in 6AC's core efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of state and local indigent defense services and provide technical assistance to policymakers in developing solutions to any identified deficiencies, the Senior Program Associate will:

- communicate with justice system stakeholders to learn the types of data that are collected in the jurisdiction being evaluated and the format(s) in which they are maintained and available;
- devise appropriate research plans for projects, including data requests to jurisdictions responsive to project goals, and scaled to the capacity of the jurisdiction to supply such data;
- collect data from justice system stakeholders in their available formats and clean and prepare such data to make it useable for analysis;
- analyze collected available data to determine what it shows about the provision of the right to counsel;
- identify gaps in the jurisdiction's collection and use of data that, if filled, could enable more effective provision and oversight of the right to counsel;
- participate in internal and external discussions about the collection and use of data to support the right to counsel; and
- prepare written reports for internal and public dissemination about how data and research can be used to improve understanding and provision of the right to counsel both in subject jurisdictions and around the United States.

On an ongoing basis, the Senior Program Associate will:

- expand and help to guide data-driven aspects of 6AC's standards-based assessments of indigent defense systems throughout the United States, while fully participating with all 6AC staff in overall evaluations of these systems;
- expand and help to guide data-driven aspects of other 6AC technical assistance work domestically and internationally;
- expand and help to guide 6AC's work to collect, analyze, and make publicly available data about the right to counsel in all 50 states and six territories, to ensure comprehensive information about the right to counsel throughout the United States;
- assist in maintaining the accuracy and currency of 6AC's existing data, as well as the storage and security of 6AC's data;
- strengthen the empirical qualities of 6AC's work, including by suggesting improvements to the ways that 6AC conducts data-driven research, interprets and visualizes data, and disseminates data and analysis both internally and externally;
- participate in internal and external discussions about the provision of the effective right to counsel;
- research, draft, and edit compelling content to inform and improve 6AC's work and to educate policymakers and criminal justice stakeholders about the right to counsel; and
- support special research projects in response to direct assignments and requests

This position is full-time and does not have supervisory responsibilities. It is a work-from-home position.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, supplemental insurance, and a generous leave policy.

Required Qualifications

Candidates MUST meet the following qualifications in order to be considered for this role:

- Desire to ensure the Sixth Amendment guarantee of the right to counsel is effectively provided to all adults and children who are unable to secure an attorney on their own
- Bachelor's degree or international equivalent
- Bachelor's plus 5 years of experience in social science data research (quantitative and qualitative) OR Master's plus 3 years of experience in social science data research (quantitative and qualitative), OR PhD plus 2 years of experience in social science data research (quantitative and qualitative);
- Ability to think conceptually, synthesize data, and draw conclusions from research and convey it to a variety of audiences
- Well-developed skills in collecting and analyzing data, making and linking data sets, and adapting to and implementing new software
- Proficient in Excel, to extract, manipulate, and analyze data
- Familiarity with statistical and data analysis software
- Proficient in use of Microsoft Office 365 applications
- Ability to balance multiple projects and work under tight deadlines
- Ability to work autonomously under minimal supervision
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Effective communicator both orally and in writing, including with colleagues and others with non-technical backgrounds
- Available to work occasionally during evenings or weekends when necessary
- Available to travel periodically for work
- Reliable internet and phone access from home
- Valid U.S. driver's license

Additional Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree or international equivalent (in public policy/administration, criminal justice/criminology, sociology/social work, or related field)
- Substantive background in an area of research related to indigent defense (e.g., courts or court systems, criminal justice, criminology, juvenile justice, political science, public administration, public policy, sociology, social work, etc.)
- Familiarity with legal systems and the provision of legal services to adults and children accused of crime
- Familiarity with justice system data management tools (e.g., data management systems, case management systems, etc.)
- Familiarity with fiscal tools (e.g., budgets, accounting, end-of-year fiscal reports, etc.)

- Experience collaborating with diverse populations in cross-cultural settings
- Knowledge, skills, and experience in IT (e.g., hardware/software, database development, information security, coding, etc.) is a plus
- Knowledge, skills, and experience in data visualization is a plus
- Knowledge, skills, and experience in social media and/or multimedia is a plus

Location

Flexible. This is a work-from-home position.

Travel

Required. Estimated 10% travel throughout the year.

License(s)

Driver's license (required).

FLSA status

This position is exempt.

How to apply

Submit your cover letter, resume, a relevant writing sample, list of references, and salary expectations to: staff@6ac.org.

No calls please. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. This position is available immediately. Applications will be accepted until position is filled, but priority will be given to applications received by July 31, 2021.