

St. Louis Survivors Legal Support

Daughter has recently volunteered, and I saw posting on The Rome Group

Seeking this position because of its alignment with my personal mission of servant leadership in communities with an emphasis on stabilization by investing in healthy families and relationships. At my core is the goal of meeting individuals (with a special focus on women) at the intersection of race and gender in family, education and workplace systems.

My journey to the legal profession began at 7 years old, when I was “kidnapped” from my kinship care arrangement that began at 3 days old by my biological mother who lived 4 states away. Being the subject of a tumultuous custody dispute, I learned at 9 years old that justice is not always fair after the court found that “the best interest of the child” would place me in a home rife with domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, and traumatic adverse childhood experiences which have persisted nearly 40 years later.

Though I knew I would become a lawyer to advocate on behalf of women and children facing complex, and often dangerous, domestic situations, my own path was not linear, primarily because I did not have all the tools and resources needed. My journey to the JD lasted 13 years as I navigated being a young wife and mother while internalizing societal messages that I was not enough to be successful in the field.

After being licensed for 10 years and using my education in JD preferred spaces after having many doors closed over the years, I return to stay true to my personal mission, and am hopeful that SLSLS will bet on me as I pursue the goal of becoming a preeminent domestic relations attorney, mediator, educator and consultant in the St. Louis region and beyond.

Exposure to family court in the following ways:

My custody case

Child abuse and custody case involving nephew

Recent order of protection with relative

Custody/mediation with a father which resulted in a domestic dispute with mother’s boyfriend and criminal charges

Why I am fit for this role:

Deep community roots and leadership in the North County region:

-connection to community organizations and leaders

-current office space in North County Innovation Center

Long term resident of multiple communities, church- credibility and connection/trust/rapport

Similar to the work I did prior to law school- goals, self-sufficiency

Community leadership and volunteerism

Experience planning and delivering community-based programs and speaking engagements beneficial to members of the community

Many skillsets that will tie well with an organization willing to train and mentor me as I learn this area of practice and courtroom advocacy skills

IMPACT

Would make SLSLS my fulltime role, but desire the ability to work with clients independently, as well as