



Job Description and Person Specification

Job Title:	Stop Lethal Injection Project (SLIP) Officer – Reprieve US
Reports to:	SLIP Project Lead
Salary:	\$42,100 annually
Benefits:	Generous health, dental, and vision insurance as well as generous vacation time of 25 days per year, plus federal holidays
Date call released:	August 14, 2019
Deadline for applications:	September 23, 2019
Start date:	November 2019
Duration:	12 months fixed term contract

About Reprieve US

Reprieve US is a registered 501(c)(3) assisting victims of extreme human rights abuses carried out by governments. We are made up of lawyers and investigators helping people face detention without trial, execution and extra judicial killing. We are a small team but we are fearless in our fight for justice.

We work closely with our sister organization, Reprieve, a UK charity founded in 1999 by British-American lawyer Clive Stafford Smith. Reprieve uses strategic interventions to end the use of the death penalty globally, and secret prisons and state-sanctioned assassinations in the context of the so-called “war on terror”.

We work for the most disenfranchised people in society, as it is in their cases that human rights are most swiftly jettisoned and the rule of law is cast aside. Thus, we promote and protect the rights of those facing the death penalty and those who are the victims of extreme human rights abuses committed in the context of the so-called “war on terror” (WOT), with a focus on secret prisons and state-sanctioned assassinations.

Underpinning Reprieve’s strategic focus is the notion that countries such as the US and the UK hold themselves out as shining examples of democratic societies that respect the rule of law and human rights, and therefore should be held to exacting standards in terms of how they respond to acts or allegations of terrorism and murder. Their responses have ripple effects worldwide, and are frequently used to justify the continuation of the death penalty, extrajudicial killing, torture, rendition and unlawful detention by countries ranging from “aspiring exemplars” to “worst offenders”.

Reprieve works with partners in jurisdictions all over the world, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), government officials, individual lawyers and human rights defenders, as well as individual, corporate and foundation funders.

How to Apply:

To apply, please submit a resumé and covering letter, detailing how you are suited to the role, to applications@reprieve.org by the date above. Please ensure your email has the subject heading ‘Stop Lethal Injection Project (SLIP) Officer – Reprieve US’, and that all attachments are sent in PDF format.



The Role:

The SLIP Officer will join the Stop Lethal Injection Project (SLIP) at [the Lethal Injection Information Center](#) at Reprieve, and will work closely with the Director, SLIP Project Lead, and SLIP Team.

The Stop Lethal Injection Project engages in investigation, corporate social responsibility (CSR) advocacy, strategic litigation, and public education focused around preventing the misuse of medicines in lethal injection executions and exposing the myth of the humane execution.

The SLIP Officer will support the team's strategic litigation around lethal injection drug issues, including legal research and drafting, development of legal theories for advocacy and litigation, and collaborating with and/or developing relationships with pro bono counsel, capital defense attorneys, and experts in the medical and scientific fields.

The SLIP Officer will establish, maintain and develop relationships with stakeholders who may help advance Reprieve's death penalty work on a state and national level, such as partner organizations, business representatives, politicians, journalists, diplomats, and funders. The SLIP Officer will be responsible for sustaining these relationships so that allies can be called upon for support when necessary.

The successful candidate will be interested in and capable of playing a key role in innovative litigation and policy advocacy. The SLIP Officer will have the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of audiences and stakeholders and translate technical, legal, and scientific issues into lay terms; will have strong research and drafting skills, and be fully committed to Reprieve's position on the death penalty.

The position will require travel within the United States and occasional travel to Reprieve's London office. It may involve work performed outside of normal office hours.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct legal research and write legal memoranda on specific state/federal law issues relating to the various aspects of the work;
- Analyze legislation or potential litigation and proactively identify opportunities for strategic litigation;
- Work closely with the wider US team on litigation and advocacy around specific death penalty cases. This may involve preparing written materials, engaging with lawyers, experts and family members, and engaging with third parties who may be willing to make public or private interventions on behalf of the prisoners in question;
- Prepare internal- and external-facing advocacy briefings and public education materials;
- Create and cultivate allies and partnerships with lawyers, experts and other professionals, agencies, and organizations, and provide technical assistance and expert legal advice to these contacts;
- Establish and maintain contact with the leading activists and abolition groups in every executing state;



- Proactively identify opportunities for Reprieve to support state-level death penalty groups, and coordinate with Reprieve's Director and SLIP Project Lead to determine the level of support we can/should provide;
- Draw on public sources and private networks to closely monitor state and national political developments which may impact our work;
- Develop an understanding of the media landscape and environment in key executing states and how this may impact Reprieve's strategic objectives; coordinate with local partners to establish whether and how media engagement should be conducted to serve our goals in key states; and prepare materials for engagement with media, either directly or via trusted local partners;
- Maintain relationships with the diplomatic representatives of abolitionist countries in DC and in relevant consulates, keeping missions up to date with Reprieve's work and ensuring Reprieve remains plugged in to their activities on the death penalty;
- Under the supervision of the SLIP Project Lead and Director, conduct engagement with stakeholders including but not limited to: business representatives, pharmacies, potential claimants in strategic litigation, family members or associates of prisoners, third parties affected by execution secrecy or the misuse of compounded medicines, healthcare professionals, and medical associations;
- Maintain a good working knowledge of US death penalty cases on which Reprieve is providing assistance;
- Support the development of advocacy materials on individual cases, including briefings, opinion pieces, media pitches, and letters on behalf of interested third parties;
- In collaboration with the Director and the Development and Outreach team, maintain relationships with Reprieve's funders and take opportunities to keep them up to date with Reprieve's work, while also understanding the wider funding landscape and spotting opportunities to engage new potential funders;
- Undertake special projects that further the charitable objects of Reprieve from time to time, particularly where such projects have an overall organizational focus.

Key Contacts

Reporting to the SLIP Project Lead, the SLIP Officer will work closely with the SLIP Team, the wider US death penalty team, Director and Deputy Directors, Fellows and others engaged by Reprieve; partner organizations and third party service providers.

Length and Salary

The role is a 12-month fixed term full-time role. The annual salary is \$42,100 per annum and we offer a generous health, vision and dental insurance package. We also offer generous vacation time of 25 days paid leave per year, plus public holidays.

The position will be based in Reprieve's offices in Washington, DC. **Applicants must be eligible to work in the US.** Reprieve is an equal opportunity employer.

Person Specification

CRITERIA	Essential	Desirable
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A genuine interest in human rights and a commitment to Reprieve’s goals	✓	
Eligible to live and work in the US	✓	
At least 2 years professional experience	✓	
US law or other relevant degree	✓	
Excellent written and oral communication skills	✓	
Highly organized with attention to detail	✓	
Ability to progress multiple streams of work independently	✓	
Ability to own, maintain, and develop stakeholder relationships	✓	
Ability to think creatively and problem-solve	✓	
Knowledge of the US death penalty landscape	✓	
Proven ability to juggle multiple tasks and exercise good judgment in a high-pressured environment	✓	
Sound judgment and discretion with respect to highly confidential and sensitive information	✓	
Ability to work harmoniously and collaboratively in a small team	✓	
Ability to manage a remote working arrangement efficiently by taking responsibility for effective communication systems and showing respect for colleagues’ time	✓	
Proficiency with MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Outlook	✓	
Prior capital defense and/or death penalty advocacy experience		✓
Prior advocacy and/or lobbying experience		✓
Familiarity with WordPress and basic web design		✓