Reimagining Bail - Quantitative Research Assistant

Role: Quantitative Research Assistant
Company Name: Minnesota Justice Research Center
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota (remote work considered on a case-by-case basis)
Compensation: $35.00/hour
Industry: Criminal legal system/Research
Position Type: Part time hourly, temporary term/project-limited (running from January through May 2023 with potential for extension)
Required Experience: 2-5 years of relevant experience
Required Education: Bachelor's Degree PLUS enrollment in or completion of Graduate Degree
Date Posted:

OVERVIEW

We are seeking an experienced quantitative researcher to work with our research team on our Reimagining Bail project. The position is an hourly contract role (varying week-by-week from about 5-10 hours per week) and time-limited based on the project timeline from January through May 2023 (with the potential for extension). The Research Assistant (RA) will report to the Research Manager and Research Director and will collaborate with other RAs and MNJRC staff over the course of the project. We will accept applications until the position is filled.

REIMAGINING BAIL PROJECT

In partnership with the Minneapolis Foundation, the MNJRC seeks to re-imagine pretrial justice. This project analyzes the complexity of the current bail system in Hennepin County with a multi-faceted mixed-methods study. The aim is to produce a report summarizing findings in the spring of 2023 that can inform a larger campaign to transform bail.

We are currently working with a growing coalition of organizations and individuals (including but not limited to the Legal Rights Center, Minnesota Freedom Fund, University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, ACLU-MN, and Justice Point) to push for access to data on bail. Quantitative data has been historically challenging to access. We have submitted a request to the State Court Administrator's Office and have successfully received data from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office to collect bail amounts, charge data, conditions of release, system-level data (e.g. preceding

judges), demographic data, defendant's pretrial score, and case outcomes. In particular, we are seeking to answer sub-questions like:

- How many defendants received cash bail as a condition of release?
- What were the average bail amounts for defendants with felony charges, and how does this vary by race? By district or region?
- What were the average bail amounts for defendants with misdemeanor charges, and how does this vary by race? By district or region?
- What is the relationship between pretrial status (i.e. detained or bailed out) and case outcome?
- Do we see different levels of disparities in the above factors when we look at the prosecuting agency? (For example, does it appear that Brooklyn Center prosecutors are asking for higher bails than Minneapolis city attorneys in the same judicial district?)

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supporting and leading on ongoing data request efforts (e.g. connecting with the State Court Administrator's Office)
- Supporting background research including drafting annotated bibliographies and literature reviews
- Leading on quantitative data analysis including cleaning/processing large amounts of data and conducting descriptive and inferential statistical analyses
- Assisting in development of the final research product, including outlining, writing, and editing the report and translating complex statistical analyses into understandable results

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree AND some research experience (ideally 2-5 years) beyond (e.g. currently enrolled in or completed a Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree, or work experience at a research organization or institution)
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with quantitative research methodology
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills
- Reliable computer access and internet
- Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to work with a diverse clientele
- Ability to work as part of a team in a dynamic and virtual environment

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced degree in criminology, sociology, or other relevant social science
- Currently enrolled or employed by an academic institution

- Deep knowledge of the Minnesota legal system—and ideally, cash bail—and a firm commitment to understanding and transforming how we think about justice in Minnesota
- Experience working with and engaging diverse populations in research efforts
- Experience engaging in critical research methodology
- Publications in academic AND non-academic contexts

HOW TO APPLY
Please send a brief cover letter, resume, and a sample of a past research product (e.g. a report or publication) all in one document (PDF preferred) to info@mnjrc.org. Please highlight clearly how your qualifications and experiences align with those listed above.