



610 S. Ardmore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005, Tel: (213) 385-2977, Fax: (213) 385-9089, Website: www.publiccounsel.org

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF ATTORNEY SHRIVER HOUSING PROJECT HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION LAW PROJECT

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Public Counsel is the largest *pro bono* public interest law firm in the country. Founded in 1970, it is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law and addressing economic, racial, and other inequities by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Public Counsel operates eight legal projects: Children's Rights, Community Development, Consumer Rights, Homelessness Prevention, Immigrants' Rights, Veterans' Rights, the Audrey Irmas Project for Women & Girls' Rights, and our impact litigation project, Opportunity Under Law. Public Counsel has a full-time staff of over 120. We seek to have a racially inclusive staff.

Public Counsel's Homelessness Prevention Law Project serves individuals who are homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless. The Shriver Housing Project is a pilot project authorized under the Shriver Civil Counsel Act (AB 590) to demonstrate the benefits of providing counsel to clients in high-stakes civil litigation such as the possible loss of housing. Although not a pure civil Gideon project, the Shriver Housing Project assists thousands of unrepresented low-income litigants in unlawful detainer actions.

JOB SUMMARY

The Staff Attorney position is a full-time position based at Public Counsel's 610 S. Ardmore office. It will involve off-site meetings and court appearances throughout Los Angeles County as needed. The position has the following responsibilities:

- Carry a personal caseload litigating unlawful detainer cases which includes: client interviews; drafting pleadings, motions, discovery, briefs, and correspondence; negotiating with outside parties; representing clients in court and conducting jury trials;
- Provide legal counsel, advice, and representation to low-income individuals regarding evictions and related matters;
- Act as a resource regarding unlawful detainer cases and other housing issues for other Public Counsel staff and partner agencies;
- Work with a large network of *pro bono* attorneys to handle unlawful detainer cases and other housing matters;
- Participate in community outreach, including preparing and presenting trainings and doing special projects as assigned;
- Assist with grant reporting, billing, and outcome tracking for housing work; and,
- Other duties as assigned.

ESSENTIAL JOB SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Candidates must possess the following:

- Juris Doctor degree and a member in good standing of the California Bar;
- 1-3 years of litigation experience preferred, eviction defense experience a plus;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Excellent negotiation and organizational skills;
- Good judgment;
- Desire to learn as well as share knowledge with other team members;
- Good client skills, familiarity with housing laws and comfort working with indigent clients;
- Ability to work in a fast paced, high volume environment;
- Ability to commute throughout Los Angeles County;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Detail oriented; and
- Work well as part of a team, but also be able to work independently with minimal supervision.

Ability to read, write and speak fluently in Spanish is strongly preferred.

START DATE AND COMPENSATION

This position is available immediately. Salary is commensurate with experience.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Continuous until position is filled.

TO APPLY

Email a cover letter, résumé, list of references and brief writing sample (in PDF format) to:

Nisha Vyas

Directing Attorney – HPLP

hppjob@publiccounsel.org

Please include “Staff Attorney - Housing” in subject line. No phone calls please.

Public Counsel is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, political affiliation, condition of physical or mental disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, in accordance with requirements of Federal and State laws.

All qualified applicants with criminal histories will be considered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring.