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*The nation's largest pro bono law firm*

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **STAFF ATTORNEY**

### **HOUSING / RE-ENTRY / BENEFITS**

### **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 130. We seek to have a racially inclusive staff.

Public Counsel's Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) serves individuals who are homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless. HPLP provides pro bono representation to homeless individuals and families to secure food, shelter, clothing and other vital benefits. In addition, HPLP assists unrepresented low-income litigants in unlawful detainer actions, and helps address tickets and warrants that present barriers to an individual's housing and stability.

In addition to our homelessness prevention and anti-displacement efforts, our recent work includes:

- Supporting local tenants in their successful efforts to obtain an Eviction Moratorium ordinance.
- Teaming up with other non-profit legal services providers, tenant organizers and community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles County to push forward the implementation of a Right to Counsel for all tenants in eviction proceedings.
- Responding to federal attempts to rollback housing subsidies for immigrant families and fair housing protections.

#### **JOB SUMMARY**

In spring 2018, Public Counsel launched an innovative new program that focuses on delivering trauma-informed, wrap-around legal services to people experiencing homelessness and those at imminent risk of homelessness. The Staff Attorney will join a dynamic team and will serve youth, families and single adults in the communities within Los Angeles County's Service Planning Area (SPA) 6, encompassing South Los Angeles, Compton, Florence, Rosewood, Willowbrook, Crenshaw, West Adams, Lynwood, Paramount and Windsor Hills.

Our team works in partnership with regional Coordinated Entry System (CES) health and social service partners. This innovative program is designed to remove barriers to housing that require legal intervention, including but not limited to: eviction prevention, tenant advice and counsel, government benefits, financial debt, professional licenses and identification, and expungement of criminal records.

This is a full-time position and requires off-site clinic work in South Los Angeles communities and other parts of Los Angeles County. The position has the following responsibilities:

- Carry a high volume caseload that may include a mix of benefits, employment law, traffic tickets, expungements, landlord-tenant counseling and eviction defense;
- Act as a resource for other Public Counsel staff and community partners;
- Provide technical assistance to, or co-counsel with, *pro bono* attorneys;
- Participate in community outreach, including preparing and presenting trainings and special projects;
- 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 (or pending Bar results);
- 0 – 5 years of experience in one or more areas of poverty law outlined above in “Job Summary”;
- Commitment to trauma-informed legal advocacy: empathy, responsive listening, restraint from judgment, and demonstration of authentic care and concern;
- Commitments to race equity work and community lawyering, and willingness to incorporate race equity principles and community lawyering in practice;
- Strong sense of professional responsibility;
- Desire to learn as well as share knowledge with other team members;
- Excellent client skills and comfort working with indigent clients;
- Ability to work in a fast paced, high volume environment;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Work well as part of a team, but also be able to work independently;
- Organized and detail oriented;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Excellent negotiation skills; and
- Ability to commute throughout Los Angeles County.

In addition, as required by funder and our service partners, after hire, candidates must:

- Obtain certification that candidate is free of active tuberculosis prior to contact with clients; and
- Participate in other health and security clearances.

Ability to read, write and speak fluently in Spanish is a plus.

## **START DATE AND COMPENSATION**

The Staff Attorney is a full-time, exempt position available immediately. Attorney salaries are set on a scale corresponding to graduation year from law school starting at \$57,000 for full time attorneys in first year of practice. Excellent benefits. This position is part of a special program created using designated funds. Please note that this position is contingent on ongoing funding.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Continuous until position is filled.

## **TO APPLY**

We value lived experiences and experiences working with our clients across a range of settings. Please consider discussing such experiences in your cover letter, especially if they are not reflected in your resume. Email a cover letter, résumé, list of references and brief writing sample (in PDF format) to:

Lorraine A. López  
 Supervising Staff Attorney - HPLP  
[hplpjob@publiccounsel.org](mailto:hplpjob@publiccounsel.org)

Please include “Housing Attorney” 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.*