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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF ATTORNEY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 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 Community Development Project (CDP) strives to build healthy, inclusive, economically stable communities through the delivery of *pro bono* legal services to community-based coalitions, nonprofits and small businesses in Los Angeles County. CDP provides transactional legal services to nonprofits that assist lower income people and neighborhoods and to entrepreneurs located in, and employing residents of, low income neighborhoods. CDP also supports community led advocacy groups and community based organizations in their efforts to advance racial and economic justice and build power in low-income communities and communities of color. We advance community driven planning, development and litigation strategies to promote affordable housing and equitable development, create jobs and encourage child care facilities. Our clients include neighborhood based community development corporations, housing advocacy and organizing groups and coalitions, health care clinics, small businesses and child care providers serving areas in need in Los Angeles, including Boyle Heights, South LA, Pico Union, Wilmington, San Gabriel Valley and Skid Row.

JOB SUMMARY

The Staff Attorney will support project efforts to advance community driven planning, development and advocacy strategies to promote affordable housing, prevent displacement, create jobs and expand early care and education services. The Attorney must be passionate about achieving justice and overcoming barriers facing low-income communities and communities of color, a creative and zealous lawyer and a team-player, committed to achieving lasting results through a community lawyering model. Specifically, the Staff Attorney will be responsible for:

- Providing direct legal, advocacy and coalition building services to help tenants groups, coalitions and community-based organizations engaged in housing justice efforts.
- Providing education and analysis to organizers and community groups on new legislation and working with community groups to draft legislative language to advance affordable housing, tenant protections and equitable development.
- Supporting existing campaigns for racial and economic justice in housing and economic development areas, including the LA Street Vending Campaign, Public Land for Public Good Campaigns, Tenant Protection, Inclusive Housing and Community Planning campaigns.
- Actively participating as a member of the Community Development team, including but not limited to participation in firm-wide activities and advocacy.
- Adhering to program and case handling policies, procedures and standards of practice, as well as the highest professional and ethical standards.
- Other duties as assigned.

The Staff Attorney will also help strengthen the Project's relationships with *pro bono* attorneys and law student volunteers. This position may also involve community outreach and presentations to educate our clients and community partners in areas of legal expertise.

ESSENTIAL JOB SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

- Demonstrated commitment to serving low-income communities and communities of color.
- Three to four years of experience practicing law in California.
- At least two years of experience with community development law, community lawyering, land use, tenant protections, and/or the provision of legal services to strengthen low-income communities.
- Experience working with community organizers and grassroots community-based coalitions.
- Creative problem-solving skills.
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with teams.
- Policy advocacy experience highly desired.
- Demonstrated commitment to race equity and economic justice
- Fluency in Spanish preferred.
- Licensed to practice in the State of California

START DATE AND COMPENSATION

- Salary is commensurate with abilities and experience
- Immediate full-time, exempt position
- Public Counsel offers a competitive benefits package including: (1) medical, dental, and vision coverage with both HMO and PPO options, (2) the option to enroll in a Flexible

Spending Account, (3) a 403(b) retirement plan with elective contribution and an employer contribution after a year of employment, and (4) employer-paid life insurance and disability plans.

- Public Counsel follows all emergency state and local orders arising from the current COVID-19 crisis. Though generally this position is office based, currently all staff must work remotely from their homes. Public Counsel will assess when the physical office will reopen in a manner consistent with public health and local and state emergency orders.
- This position is part of a special program created using designated funds. There is no assurance of ongoing funding or employment beyond a 24-month period

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Continuous until position is filled.

TO APPLY

Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Shashi Hanuman

Email: cdp@publiccounsel.org

No phone calls please.

Please type the words "CDP Staff Attorney Position" in your email 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.