

Job Opportunity:
Domestic Violence Staff Attorney
July 2009

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that serves as the legal arm of the national movement to end homelessness. NLCHP has been advocating successfully for over 19 years for systemic law and policy reform to prevent and end homelessness. Among other accomplishments, NLCHP success include winning education rights for homeless children, securing housing rights for victims of abuse, enforcing laws that convert surplus federal property to housing and services for homeless individuals, and enforcing the civil rights of homeless people.

NLCHP seeks a Staff Attorney to work on issues of access to housing for homeless and low-income survivors of violence against women. The Staff Attorney manages our Domestic Violence Program and plays a leading role in national and local systemic advocacy and outreach on housing and domestic violence issues affecting homeless and low-income individuals. The Staff Attorney will utilize advocacy, litigation and other policy strategies to work towards the goal of ensuring that all survivors of domestic violence can access housing. As part of advocating for homeless and low income women and families, the Staff Attorney will also assist NLCHP's education-related advocacy to ensure that the Head Start Programs and the protections of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) are available to homeless families with young children.

Key Responsibilities

- Manage NLCHP Domestic Violence Program, including being primarily responsible for shaping, prioritizing and implementing program goals and activities
- Play leading national role in housing rights advocacy for survivors of violence against women by working to ensure effective passage and implementation of, and compliance with, national, state, and local laws and legislation addressing housing rights and funding for survivors
- Serve as voice for homeless and low-income survivors and their housing legal rights in context
- Work closely with coalitions with other national, state, and local advocates working to end domestic and sexual violence and working to end homelessness.
- Develop, update, and assess need for outreach materials and publications for variety of audiences and contexts; conduct trainings, presentations, and outreach for variety of audiences
- Respond to requests for technical assistance from legal services lawyers and other advocates around the country working on both housing and domestic violence issues
- Expand and moderate program e-mail list of domestic violence and housing advocates
- Investigate and undertake impact litigation to assist survivors using housing law strategies
- Work in conjunction with local D.C. organizations to implement the local housing law to protect survivors and to ensure that survivors can access housing and benefits; develop similar partnerships elsewhere.
- Assist in grant reporting and overall organizational strategic planning, serving as primary reporter and planner for Domestic Violence Program
- Develop and oversee law firm pro bono projects relevant to Domestic Violence Program
- Advocate to make Head Start Program and protections of IDEA Act more accessible and beneficial to homeless families
- Assist in hiring and supervising semester and summer law student interns

Qualifications

- J.D. required; 2-3 years of legal practice with experience in class action litigation, domestic violence and policy preferred
- Excellent legal and analytical research and writing skills, strong oral communication skills, and interest in public speaking and training essential
- Ability to work both as a self-starter and in a team required
- Demonstrated commitment to working on behalf of survivors of domestic violence required
- Demonstrated commitment to ending homelessness, expanding housing rights, promoting economic justice, working in poverty law, international human rights, or related issues required
- Willingness to and interest in working with variety of stakeholders required, including pro bono law firms, legislators and staff, agency officials and staff, housing and tenants' rights advocates, housing providers, advocates working against homelessness, poverty lawyers, and advocates and lawyers working against domestic and sexual violence
- Background and interest in working in nonprofit advocacy organization helpful
- Program management or program development experience helpful

Salary & Benefits

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

Benefits: Generous holiday and vacation leave; fully paid health insurance; disability insurance; 403(b) retirement plan; working in a small, collegial team environment; opportunity to have a significant national impact.

Application Procedure:

Send cover letter, resume, and short legal writing sample (e-mail preferred) to:

Vibha Bhatia, Director of Operations
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
1411 K Street, N.W., Suite 1400
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: Domestic Violence Staff Attorney
E-mail vbhatia@nlchp.org
Fax 202-628-2737
No phone calls, please.

NLCHP is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.