

Fellowship Sponsor Announcement

The National Housing Law Project seeks applicants to apply for fellowships offered by New Voices, Equal Justice Works, Skadden, and others. NHLP has successfully sponsored several fellowship applicants in the past, and will work closely with the selected applicant in developing the fellowship application during August and September 2008. Work to commence in the fall of 2009 at NHLP's Oakland, CA or District of Columbia office.

Possible fellowship initiatives:

- (1) **Rights of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Individuals in Subsidized Housing:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently issued guidance addressing public housing agencies' obligation to make their programs accessible to LEP individuals. The fellow will implement this guidance, along with state and federal laws on language access, to ensure that public housing agencies are providing translation and interpretation services to LEP individuals.
- (2) **Fair Access to Affordable Housing:** The fellow will challenge exclusionary admission policies often used in subsidized housing programs, such as ex-offender status, amount or source of income, bad credit and prior landlord references, especially those that harm classes protected by federal, state and local fair housing laws.
- (3) **Housing Rights of Individuals With Disabilities:** The fellow will assist tenants with disabilities to gain equal access to housing by strengthening advocates' use of their legal rights to reasonable accommodation of normal policies and practices.
- (4) **Protecting Tenants' Rights to Due Process in Section 8 Hearings:** Public housing agencies wield a substantial amount of discretion in conducting their Section 8 termination hearings. As a result, many Section 8 tenants are denied basic procedural protections when their vouchers are terminated. The fellow will ensure that Section 8 informal hearing procedures at local housing authorities comply with due process.
- (5) **Relocation Rights:** The fellow will ensure required relocation protections for affordable housing tenants around the nation facing temporary or permanent displacement as a result of demolition, sale or conversion of their homes or other community revitalization activities.
- (6) **Reforming the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program:** The fellow will work to reform the nation's largest and fastest growing affordable housing program, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, serving more than two million families nationwide, to establish basic protections for applicants and tenants through training, policy advocacy, and litigation.
- (7) **Enforcing Tenants' Rights to Adequate Utility Allowances:** The fellow will evaluate local compliance with utility allowance rules and develop enforcement strategies for tenant households who pay some or all of their own utilities. Millions of families are affected throughout various federal affordable housing programs with income-based rents. The fellow would provide advisory support to hundreds of local advocates representing tenants.

Qualifications:

- extremely high-caliber legal research and writing skills;
- commitment to working for low-income and underserved populations;
- ability to work independently as well as a member of a team;
- excellent communication skills.

Application Deadline:

August 4, 2008

Application Materials:

Please send or e-mail to the address below:

- cover letter
- resume
- law school transcript
- writing sample
- references

Applicant must be selected by NHLP to apply for the selected fellowship with its support. Applicant must then be awarded a fellowship by the funding organization.

Contact:

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