



## **GOVERNMENT BENEFITS UNIT STAFF ATTORNEY MANHATTAN LEGAL SERVICES**

**MANHATTAN LEGAL SERVICES** seeks a staff attorney to represent low-income clients in government benefits matters. This office is part of Legal Services NYC, the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. We are dedicated to fighting poverty by providing high quality legal services in areas such housing, family law, public benefits, employment, consumer, education, immigration, and disability rights, with special units serving particular vulnerable populations including domestic violence victims, people living with HIV, and LGBTQ community members. We are committed to working in partnership with community-based organizations in the low-income communities we serve in order to address the causes of poverty.

The Government Benefits Unit represents clients in State administrative hearings and in State and Federal courts to challenge adverse benefits decisions and unlawful agency policies and practices. Benefits work focuses on access to and maintenance of various forms of public assistance, related subsidies and supports, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program benefits, and Medicaid.

While representing our low-income clients in various public benefits matters, this staff attorney will also work to continue to grow our public benefits practice, provide community education, and engage in public policy advocacy on public benefit issues. The attorney will participate in our many workgroups focused on making institutional changes in agency practice that better serve benefits recipients in our City and collaborate with other LSNYC benefits units to initiate and continue systemic positive change.

We are looking for a candidate who is excited to work in a fast-paced environment, work daily with our clients and communities, and use creative strategies in the pursuit of justice.

Responsibilities include interviewing clients, providing legal advice and counseling, case investigation, drafting legal documents, direct representation of clients in administrative proceedings, Civil Court, Supreme Court and federal court, as well as working with community groups to coordinate and engage in outreach and education. In addition, the applicant will be responsible for public policy advocacy.

Applicants must have a J.D. from an accredited law school, excellent advocacy, litigation, writing and leadership skills, and be able to communicate effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds and conduct community outreach in low-income neighborhoods. Demonstrated commitment to public interest law required. Two years of public interest lawyering in benefits

**Manhattan Legal Services**  
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**Peggy Earisman**, Director

required. Fluency or professional proficiency in Spanish or Chinese preferred but not required. Salary is determined by a collective bargaining agreement based on year of graduation.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and three references by email to [jobpostingsmls@mls.ls-nyc.org](mailto:jobpostingsmls@mls.ls-nyc.org) – please be sure to include “GBU Staff Attorney” in the subject line.

Manhattan Legal Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and persons over 40 are welcome and are encouraged to apply.

Bar Associations and other organization: Manhattan Legal Services seeks and welcomes your recommendations for candidates who meet the foregoing qualifications and, in addition, requests that you or your organization encourage such candidates to apply.

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