

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

Director of Economic Justice Unit

MANHATTAN LEGAL SERVICES (MLS) is seeking a dynamic and experienced attorney to serve as Director of a new Economic Justice Unit at MLS. This is a new unit created in response to LSNYC's Strategic Plan which seeks to create wealth in low-income communities and offers an exciting opportunity for a passionate attorney to work to develop a project which seeks to address economic and racial justice for low-income communities and work with communities and organizers on advocacy strategies. The Director will be responsible for working with staff to set litigation and advocacy priorities for the unit and will directly supervise 7-8 people providing comprehensive civil legal services to low-income Manhattan residents to address economic issues such as employment and unemployment, financial justice and public benefit issues.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Provide leadership for the creation and growth of this new unit, including developing a communicating a vision and priorities for the work;
- Develop and participate in affirmative litigation and advocacy projects addressing economic and racial justice.
- Provide supervision and professional development opportunities for the attorneys and paralegals representing clients in public benefit, employment, unemployment and consumer cases;
- Work in partnership with other LSNYC advocates;
- Forge collaborative relationships with communities and increase community lawyering;
- Manage city, state and private contracts funding this work and seek to increase funding for services as needed;
- Participate as a member of the MLS management team to help ensure that MLS provides the highest quality legal services to Manhattan residents.

Applicants must have the following qualifications: J.D and admission or eligibility for admission to the New York State Bar; at least seven years' experience legal experience with experience providing legal services to low income people or comparable relevant experience; experience in addressing economic injustices strongly preferred; public benefits experience preferred; ability to articulate a vision for the work; a strong background in litigation in state and federal courts; excellent legal writing and advocacy skills; excellent interpersonal and communication skills; excellent teaching/training skills and demonstrated supervisory skills; ability to communicate effectively and supervise individuals from diverse backgrounds; and ability to work effectively with local organizations;

MLS serves low income people throughout Manhattan at several office locations. We are affiliated with Legal Services NYC, the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. The Manhattan office is dedicated to providing high quality legal services in the areas of housing, family law, public benefits, employment, immigration, and consumer and disability rights. We work in partnership with community-based organizations in the low-income communities we serve.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and three references by email to jobpostingsmls@mls.ls-nyc.org **Please put “Director Economic Justice” in the subject line.**

Manhattan Legal Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons, 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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