



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Fellowship

Organization: Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.®

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps

Located in: Geneva, New York

Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.®

(Organization Description)

Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.® (LawNY®) is a not-for-profit law firm providing free legal services to eligible clients in civil cases through seven regional offices covering a fourteen county area in Western New York. LawNY® receives funding from the New York State Office of Court Administration, Legal Services Corporation, Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund of the State of New York, AmeriCorps, Equal Justice Works and a number of other funders. Our workforce includes approximately 145 attorneys, paralegals and support staff.

Fellowship Summary

LawNY® is hosting a one-year Fellowship to provide essential legal services to our nation's veterans, active military service members, and their families. The selected candidate will be a part of a corps of legal Fellows serving in the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Program and will encounter hands-on experience providing direct legal representation to the veteran. The Fellow's role combines elements of direct legal representation and community outreach and advocacy. The attorney selected for this Fellowship will be housed at the LawNY® office located in Geneva, New York. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the selected Fellow's term of service **must begin prior to October 1, 2018 and last for one year.**

Fellowship Description

The Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps (VLC) Fellow will:

1. Provide high quality direct legal representation to financially eligible veterans and their families. This will likely involve conducting intake, assembling evidence, conducting interviews, and researching relevant law.
2. Work with community partner agencies, including case management staff at the VA hospitals, VA clinics, and Veterans' Centers in the area to create protocols and facilitate referrals.
3. Work with the local bar and law schools/colleges to recruit volunteers.
4. Deliver presentations at Veterans' Centers on legal topics of broad appeal and create

educational materials to be shared with host staff statewide.

5. Participate in a national corps of attorneys committed to providing legal representation to the veteran community.
6. Have access to a substantive and skills-based training curriculum and ongoing support, including participation in Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C.
7. Position is a one-year Fellowship.

Qualifications

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal Fellow will possess a demonstrated commitment to public interest work and a strong desire to assist indigent clients. Further, the ideal candidate will have the following:

- Excellent writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills;
- Strong oral and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member;
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments;
- Knowledge of veterans' benefits law and/or experience with veterans and military families;
 - Military service or related-military background, including status as a military dependent;
- Diverse economic, social and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred;
- Law school clinic, externship, summer, or other relevant practice experience;
- New York State bar membership or eligibility to practice in New York under limited permission rule (the latter is available as a result of bar membership in another state).

Required Qualifications

- Law school graduate
- Ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only convictions for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable pursuant to Equal Justice Works review and approval);
- **Ability to begin the fellowship no later than October 1, 2018 and attend Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C. from November 6 – 8, 2018.**

Compensation Package

The Fellow will receive an annual living allowance of \$24,930, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses of up to \$21,000. Additionally, Fellows may receive an education award of \$5,815 upon successful completion of service. Interested applicants should contact LawNY® with any follow up questions.

Other Benefits Provided by LawNY®:

- Health insurance provided, for Fellows who are not otherwise covered
- Position related travel reimbursement
- Opportunities to participate in national substantive training on veterans law issues and in a variety of local and regional skills-based and substantive trainings

Other Benefits and Professional Opportunities offered by AmeriCorps:

- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
- Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
- Childcare assistance (if income-eligible)

Application Instructions

Interested candidates should submit: 1) a cover letter describing qualifications, 2) resume, 3) writing sample and 4) the name and contact information for three references by September 17, 2018 to ensure full consideration. Applications will be accepted beyond that date until the position is filled. Applications should be addressed to Thomas Dubel, Deputy Director, and sent to the following e-mail address: lawnyapplications@lawny.org. **The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow is scheduled to begin the term of service no later than October 1, 2018.**

LawNY® is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status. LawNY® encourages applications from diverse candidates. LawNY® welcomes applications regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or any other consideration protected by law.

Application Deadline

September 17, 2018.

*Late applications will be accepted but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.