



BRONX LEGAL SERVICES SEEKS STAFF ATTORNEY FOR OUR VETERANS JUSTICE PROJECT AND PUBLIC BENEFITS UNIT

Bronx Legal Services, the largest provider of free civil legal services in the borough, is part of Legal Services NYC's network of local programs throughout New York City. Our mission is to advance society's promise to its most vulnerable members: that they are entitled to equal access to our legal system. For 50 years, we have provided civil legal services that help our clients meet their essential needs and have challenged the systemic injustices that keep them poor. We are looking for a staff attorney to join the Public Benefits & LGBTQ Advocacy Units.

The Veterans Justice Project (VJP) provides comprehensive civil legal services to low-income military veterans, service members, and their families. The VJP is designed to help veterans achieve greater stability and connect veterans with social and mental health services in the City. We have partnerships with other non-profit organizations serving veterans and we collaborate with the VA Hospitals, Veterans Centers, and housing programs throughout the City. The VJP works holistically to protect veterans and their family members from homelessness, resolve barriers to employment, preserve economic stability, and remedy many other problems that derail veterans' successful reintegration into civilian life.

The staff attorney will provide direct legal services to veterans, their dependents, and other low-income New Yorkers on a variety of civil law matters and meet with veterans at Veterans Administration facilities and other community-based organizations. The staff attorney will litigate cases in different forums (administrative hearings as well as in state and federal courts) to advance the legal rights of veterans and low-income communities. The staff attorney will strengthen existing partnerships and conduct outreach to forge new relationships with community-based organizations and governmental entities that serve veterans, their families, and other low-income people. Unless already accredited, the staff attorney will need to obtain and maintain accreditation by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition to the VJP, the staff attorney will provide comprehensive legal services and assistance to older adults across a range of issues designed to promote stability and allow people to age in place. The staff attorney will also help other low-income people obtain, retain, or increase vital public assistance benefits such as cash welfare, rental subsidies,

WIC, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (Food Stamp) benefits, and public health insurance.

When conducting off-site intake and outreach, the staff attorney will be expected to enter and upload relevant data and documents into our case management system and complete conflict checks.

Occasional evening and weekend outreach will be necessary.

Qualifications include:

- A demonstrated passion for social justice and a commitment to working with low-income communities and communities of color to advance equity;
- Excellent interviewing, writing, and communication skills;
- Experience working with low-income people;
- Experience working with veterans strongly preferred;
- Experience working with older adults (age 60+) strongly preferred;
- Excellent organizational skills and strong facility with numbers;
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively on an interdisciplinary team;
- Experience with veterans benefits issues and other public benefits strongly preferred;
- Admission to the New York State bar; and,
- Fluency or proficiency in Spanish or another language commonly spoken by members of our client communities is strongly preferred.

To apply for the position send a cover letter, resume, names of three references and two recent writing samples **via e-mail** to:

Sandra Sanchez
ssanchez@lsnyc.org

The e-mail should include “**Bronx VJP Staff Attorney Position**” in the subject line.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls.

Bronx Legal Services is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, and transgender people are all welcome and encouraged to apply.

Job #104_2018; Posted: 10/2/18