



BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES SEEKS STAFF ATTORNEY FOR LGBTQ/HIV ADVOCACY PROJECT

Project Description

Brooklyn Legal Services seeks a staff attorney for our LGBTQ & HIV Advocacy Project.

Brooklyn Legal Services, part of Legal Services NYC, provides high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Brooklyn's diverse low-income population. BLS focuses on the problems that have the greatest impact on our clients — preserving affordable and decent housing, maintaining income support, redressing abusive lending and consumer practices, promoting family stability and mitigating the effects of domestic violence, and advocating for the disabled.

The LGBTQ & HIV Advocacy Project is a general practice unit designed to provide comprehensive legal services in a single location for people living with HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQ community. The Project provides representation in a broad-range of civil legal needs including housing preservation, accessing public assistance, social security and other benefits, family and consumer law. The Project also files affirmative litigation challenging discrimination and other systemic abuses faced by the LGBTQ and HIV communities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The staff attorney will be responsible for litigation, advocacy, and community outreach and education throughout Brooklyn and in other boroughs when collaborating with our community partners. The staff attorney will be required to do community outreach outside of normal business hours, including client intake at regular evening clinics off-site, train community members and social services providers, and establish relationships with community-based organizations and governmental entities that serve PLWHA and LGBTQ populations. The staff attorney will represent clients in a number of courts, primarily housing court, and at administrative hearings, such as Social Security disability hearings. The staff attorney will also have opportunities to do affirmative and anti-discrimination litigation and advocacy. The staff attorney will make home and hospital visits to meet with clients with some regularity.



Experience and Qualifications

J.D. required. Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law and to working with people living with the HIV and the LGBTQ community in particular; excellent legal research and writing skills; strong verbal communications skills; and a strong interest in litigation. Applicants must be able and willing to participate in community outreach outside the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applicants must possess knowledge and an understanding of the specific challenges facing the HIV and LGBTQ community and be familiar with recent events affecting these communities. Applicants must be able to communicate respectfully and effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds, particularly members of LGBTQ communities, people living with HIV/AIDS, substance users, and people with mental illnesses, and be able to conduct outreach events in low-income neighborhoods. Proficiency in a language other than English, particularly Spanish, is preferred. Prior relevant legal work experience is preferred.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to bkhiring@lsnyc.org. In your cover letter, please address your motivation for working in a practice dedicated to representing individuals in the HIV and LGBTQ communities. Please write “LGBTQHIV - ATTORNEY” in the subject line of the email.

Salary and benefits are determined by the LS-NYC Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Legal Services NYC is an equal opportunity employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and people over the age of 40 are strongly encouraged to apply.

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