

DIRECTOR - IMMIGRATION AND LGBTQ/HIV ADVOCACY

Staten Island Legal Services (**across the street from the ferry**) seeks a passionate and experienced attorney to direct the Immigration and LGBTQ/HIV Advocacy Units.

Staten Island Legal Services (SILS) is the Staten Island office of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC). We fight poverty and seek racial, social, and economic justice. SILS offers free legal services concerning immigration, LGBTQ/HIV advocacy, family/domestic violence, housing, foreclosure, and education. LSNYC is the largest provider of civil legal services in the country, LSNYC provides numerous opportunities for growth and professional development. Our Learning Center provides opportunities to earn free CLEs and gain experience as a trainer. LSNYC also prides itself on its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts; on Staten Island, our DEI committee works to foster collegial relationships amongst staff, and growth in our own office's approach to DEI and racial justice issues. Our numerous affinity groups allow staff to explore and advocate for racial justice growth within our organization and through our legal work.

We are looking for a passionate and dynamic immigration attorney to lead and direct a small team of smart, dedicated legal staff. The Director will supervise and mentor four lawyers and a part-time social worker while maintaining a limited caseload. The Director will manage case intake in a way that both meets our goals and considers the staff's needs. We encourage the Director to pursue impact litigation or advocacy. The team looks to the Director for leadership, guidance, and support to fight for our clients. The Immigration unit's work includes removal defense, asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), guardianship cases in family court, family petitions, naturalization, VAWA self-petitions, U-status, and T-status. The Immigration Unit also coordinates with *pro bono* attorneys as necessary to mitigate immigration consequences of criminal convictions. The LGBTQ/HIV Advocacy unit's work includes immigration matters, public benefits, housing, and name changes. One of the staff attorneys is a 2018-2020 Skadden fellow. The Immigration and LGBTQ/HIV Advocacy Director will be supervised by the SILS Project Director.

Responsibilities:

- Supervising and supporting four attorneys and a part-time social worker.
- Advising and representing immigrants in cases filed with federal administrative bodies, family court, federal district, and appellate courts.
- Collaborating with immigration advocates throughout LSNYC on litigation matters and strategy.

- Managing the reports for grants and doing some limited writing for grant proposals.
- Representing SILS/LSNYC at some community events and stakeholder meetings.
- Collaborating with city, state, and federal agencies and community-based organizations.

Requirements:

- 3-5 years of experience practicing immigration law (experience in public benefits and other civil matters is preferred but not required).
- 1-3 years of experience supervising others is preferred.
- A demonstrated passion for social justice and commitment to working with low-income communities and communities of color to advance racial equity.
- Strong analytical, writing and communication skills.
- Strong advocacy skills.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Fluency in a language spoken by communities we serve strongly preferred.

Highly competitive public interest salary and excellent benefits package.

Interested individuals should email a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to:

silshiring@lsnyc.org

Please write “SILS Immigration Director” in the subject line

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

Staten Island Legal Services 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 welcome and encouraged to apply.

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