

## Job Announcement Staff Attorney – Affordable Housing Initiative

The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless seeks to hire a full-time, experienced staff attorney for our Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI). Since 2002, AHI has focused on improving, preserving, and expanding the supply of affordable and subsidized housing opportunities for low-income residents of the District of Columbia. It is the vehicle through which we provide legal assistance to low-income tenants and tenant associations in order to stabilize rental properties that are threatened with loss of affordability or tenant displacement. Common threats include the loss of federal subsidy, sale, condo conversion, and unsafe conditions. AHI is committed to educating tenants about their rights and bringing the needs—and voices—of low-income renters into policy debates.

### Job Responsibilities:

- Representing tenants and tenant associations in Landlord-Tenant Court, DC Superior Court, the Zoning Commission or other administrative proceedings;
- Securing and collaborating with *pro bono* counsel;
- Conducting "tenants rights" workshops;
- Engaging in systemic advocacy, including:
  - Testifying at public hearings and supporting clients in preparing and delivering testimony;
  - Collaborating with other legal service housing attorneys and community advocates in efforts to identify rental properties at risk of losing affordability and in joint public policy advocacy to preserve or expand affordable housing; and
  - Participating in meetings with government officials.

### Required Qualifications:

- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and to working with people living in poverty;
- Minimum three years litigation experience, preferably in housing law. One year of clinical litigation experience as a law student will be considered equivalent to one year of practice;
- Strong writing ability;
- Experience working with community organizers and/or grass roots organizations; and
- DC Bar membership or the demonstrated ability to waive into DC.

Experience in Landlord-Tenant and Superior Court and fluency in Spanish are a plus. The successful candidate will be comfortable working in a small, non-profit environment, both independently and as part of a team. She or he will work closely with the other AHI attorney as part of a two-member team, as well as with other Legal Clinic staff on occasion.

To meet the needs of our clients, our attorneys often work outside of normal business hours and travel throughout the District. Travel costs are reimbursable and WLCH has a flex-time policy that attorneys may utilize to adjust the hours of work during the normal business day when evening or weekend work is necessary.

**Salary:** DOE with excellent benefits. Applicant may be eligible for the District's loan repayment assistance program.

**To Apply:** Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references. We are looking for thoughtful, personalized cover letters that demonstrate qualifications and interest in working to ensure a just and inclusive community. Email materials to [job@legalclinic.org](mailto:job@legalclinic.org) and note "Housing Attorney" in the subject line, or mail to WLCH, 1200 U Street, NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20009. **Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled; applicants are encouraged to apply ASAP.** We value an inclusive and diverse workplace and encourage applications from interested persons from diverse backgrounds of any race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, personal appearance, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, or any other legally protected status.

September 5, 2017