



Housing Justice Fellowship – Community Health Law Project

About the Community Health Law Project

Founded in 1976, the Community Health Law Project (CHLP) is a statewide not-for-profit legal service organization which provides legal representation and advocacy services to low-income individuals with disabilities and the frail elderly. Through the services it offers, CHLP maintains the independence and self-sufficiency of its clients so that they can live productive lives as contributing members of their communities. Clients are comprised of persons with chronic mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mobility impairments, sensory impairments that render persons blind or deaf, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and more recently persons with substance use disorders and chronic health problems. In summary, CHLP's clients are individuals who, by virtue of their age, health, or disability, cannot negotiate the complexities of daily life on their own and need the assistance of attorneys and advocates to help them with legal matters so that they may continue to live independently. CHLP offers services in a number of areas including, but not limited to, landlord-tenant and other housing related matters; Social Security Disability Insurance; Supplemental Security Income; public entitlements; family law; Medicaid/Medicare; home care issues involving private duty nursing, personal care assistance, and durable medical equipment; consumer law; foreclosure; reverse mortgage issues; barrier-free accessibility; housing discrimination; guardianships; and document drafting such as Wills, Living Wills, and Powers of Attorney.

Position Opening

As part of a comprehensive Housing Justice Program funded by the New Jersey legislature in response to the global pandemic, Rutgers Law School and the Community Health Law Project ("CHLP") seek a Housing Justice Fellow for the South Jersey office of CHLP which is located in Collingswood, New Jersey. Applicants should have a demonstrated passion for social justice and should be eager to learn more about housing justice law. The Fellowship is intended to promote housing stability for low-income individuals with disabilities in housing matters throughout the southern counties in New Jersey, and will include representation and assistance related to evictions based on nonpayment of rent and/or other causes of action; illegal lockouts; habitability and rent control violations; reasonable accommodation requests; federally subsidized housing issues; ejectments; and housing issues with the Work First New Jersey Emergency Assistance program. The Fellowship is a one-year position but has the potential for a second-year renewal dependent on funding.



Main Responsibilities

- Provide counsel and advice, brief service, and representation in housing related matters as outlined above;
- Assist with community outreach and educational activities, including Know-Your-Rights workshops, in housing related matters;
- Assist with developing relationships with stakeholders and community partners in the South Jersey area.

Requirements

- JD from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in New Jersey or be able to be admitted to practice by December 1, 2021;
- A commitment to social justice and community lawyering;
- Excellent communication, analytical, organizational, and writing skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and respectfully with a diverse client population, including individuals with disabilities, as well as with community members.

Preferred Qualifications

- Three to five years of legal experience;
- Rutgers Law alum;
- Fluency or proficiency in Spanish.

Salary and Benefits

Competitive annual salary based on relevant work experience, education, and other factors. This position also includes a generous benefits package including medical and dental insurance.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted from law school graduates with up to 5 years of experience. Graduates of Rutgers Law (either location) and those who speak Spanish preferred, but these are not required. The position is set to start as soon as possible, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please send a resume, cover letter with mission statement regarding a commitment to housing justice, a brief writing sample, and references to Rutgers Law School Associate Dean Jill Friedman at jill.friedman@rutgers.edu. Your subject line should follow this format:

Housing Justice Post-Graduate Fellowship – CHLP – [your first name, your last name]

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