

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Part-Time Temporary Staff Attorney for Skagit Legal Aid Housing Justice Project

Skagit Legal Aid (SLA) provides access to justice for low income and historically marginalized individuals and communities and combats systemic racism and other forms of discrimination by expanding access to civil legal justice.

SLA is seeking a Temporary Part-Time Staff Attorney for its Housing Justice Project to represent eligible tenants before an unlawful detainer has been filed to keep people in their homes and to keep eviction judgments off their records. The Staff Attorney will also be responsible for representing tenants during unlawful detainer actions and supporting local volunteer and contract attorneys.

SLA is especially interested in qualified candidates with professional, personal and/or service experience that allows them to contribute to and support the legal aid community's commitment to race equity. Candidates must be willing to regularly engage with the community to be served.

General Duties

The Staff Attorney will undertake a range of duties including, but not limited to:

- Represent eligible in pre-filing landlord/tenant disputes by negotiating with landlords and landlords' counsel during informal settlement discussions and formal mediation once the mediation program is established by the Skagit County Superior Court and San Juan County Superior Court, respectively.
- Represent eligible individuals in unlawful detainer actions in the Skagit County Superior Court and San Juan County Superior Court. Additionally, the staff attorney will assist individuals with unfiled unlawful detainer actions as appropriate.
- Engage with the communities of people at risk of eviction and meet with individual clients at SLA's regular legal clinics at the CCS Farmworker Center in Mount Vernon every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and at the East County Resource Center in Concrete every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.
- Participate in legal education events for groups, social and human services providers and justice system stakeholders, and serve as a resource to other advocates working on landlord-tenant and eviction related issues.
- Collaborate with providers of rental assistance, mediation, and other legal aid providers to ensure low-income renters have equal access to housing justice.

- Utilize SLA's case management and timekeeping systems and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements and reporting needs.
- Support the work of SLA's eviction defense partners including private volunteer attorneys, programs serving the needs of unrepresented litigants, other legal aid providers and interested parties and organizations addressing the legal needs of low-income persons.
- Use strategic methods and a broad range of advocacy tools to address high priority, eviction-related client needs, with particular focus on legal needs of persons and groups that experience special barriers to accessing civil legal services, including immigrants, tribal members, youth, seniors, disabled persons, and other groups.

Qualifications

- Washington State Bar Association membership in good standing, the ability to acquire membership through admission by motion, or ability to take the next Washington bar exam is required.
- Should be culturally competent and have demonstrated commitment or experience working with low-income client communities, communities of color, limited English speakers and persons with disabilities.
- Litigation experience, with particular experience in Superior Court, tenant rights, and on matters related to housing is preferred.
- Experience or demonstrated interest in substantive areas or other legal issues that affect low-income communities is preferred.
- Travel around Skagit County and reliable transportation is required.
- People of color, LGBTQ people, and those from tribal, indigenous, or farmworking communities are strongly encouraged to apply;

Compensation

This is an exempt, half-time position with a monthly stipend ranging from \$2,300 to \$2,700 per month depending on experience. The Staff Attorney position is exempt although it is expected that the successful candidate will work 20-25 hours per week in order to meet their professional responsibilities. This position is funded thru December 31, 2021.

Work Environment

SLA's typical client office hours are 9:00 – 5:00, Monday through Friday. Attorney positions are exempt and those in the position are expected to work the hours needed to meet their professional responsibilities.

SLA's office is located in Mount Vernon, Washington. This will be a hybrid position with the opportunity to work from home, in office, and around SLA's service area. The successful candidate will

be expected to be available (either virtually or in-person) during SLA's regular legal clinics and during the weekly unlawful detainer calendar.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to director@skagitvlp.org. Cover letter should include description of any experience, personal or professional, with low income or other marginalized communities. SLA is especially interested in qualified candidates whose professional, personal and/or service experience allow them to contribute to and support the legal aid community's commitment to race equity.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

SLA has adopted the Washington Race Equity and Justice Initiative (REJI) and is organizationally committed to fight racism and to incorporate equity and inclusion in our advocacy work and our internal systems and work environment. SLA expects all staff to uphold the REJI commitments and approach their role with a desire to learn and grow in this area.