

Project Attorney for Eviction Prevention Project

The Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to provide civil legal services for persons with low incomes, creating equal access to justice, and opportunities out of poverty. GLSP received a two-year grant from the Georgia Bar Foundation to expand its housing work through the Eviction Prevention Project. The Project will provide legal assistance to qualifying low-income tenants of private landlords in Bibb, Chatham, Dougherty, Floyd, Glynn, Hall, Muscogee, Richmond, and Whitfield Counties. The Project seeks to hire an attorney for each of GLSP's Regional Offices located in Augusta, Albany, Brunswick, Dalton, Columbus, Gainesville, Piedmont, Macon, and Savannah.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Project Attorney will represent private tenants and work to address systemic barriers to reduce evictions, address housing conditions, and improve tenant access to justice. The Project Attorney will be located in a GLSP Regional Office and will work in the Project designated county. While supervised by local management staff, the Project Attorney will work closely with other Project Attorneys and the Project Director. The Project Attorney will be part of the ten member Project Team and will be expected to support members of the team by sharing strategies and resources. The Project Attorneys will meet regularly and receive specialized training.

PRIMARY DUTIES

- Provide direct representation to tenants facing eviction to prevent the loss of housing, address housing conditions, and assert fair housing rights.
- Address systemic issues such as substandard housing, self-help evictions, wrongfully withheld security deposits, and evictions to enforce land sale contracts.
- Work with local code enforcement to effectively address conditions and document the need for such services.
- Work with courts to adopt policies and practices that allow tenants to effectively present their case, assert their legal rights, and access the court. In so doing, promote systemic change by removing economic, educational, and linguistic barriers that prevent low-income tenants from accessing justice.
- Publicize the expansion of GLSP's services to tenants of private landlords, in the Project's counties.
- Analyze the number of evictions filed in the Project county in the past two years and determine the percentage decrease in the number of actions filed each year after the Project.

- Track the number of evictions avoided and the benefit of the avoided eviction to the family.

QUALIFICATIONS

GLSP is looking for an attorney to staff the Project with the following qualifications:

- Graduate of an accredited law school and current member of Georgia Bar with experience working with clients with low incomes on housing issues and a commitment to social justice;
- Working knowledge of Georgia landlord tenant law and experience representing tenants in Georgia courts; familiarity with the county in which they will be located is preferable;
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to articulate the Project's initiatives to different audiences through public speaking, writing, partnership development, and community education events;
- Strong organizational skills and ability to perform tasks necessary to maintain a substantial active caseload of advocacy and litigation;
- Ability to analyze, write, and present ideas and legal concepts clearly and concisely;
- Willingness and ability to work as part of a team in a professional and collaborative manner;
- Computer literacy, which includes familiarity using email, Excel, Word, SharePoint, LegalServer, and other computer programs;
- Be willing to relocate to cities around Georgia outside of Atlanta;
- Must have reliable transportation and a valid Georgia drivers license; and
- Ability to speak Spanish is preferred.

Salary is dependent upon experience and qualifications; GLSP offers excellent fringe benefits. A resume, cover letter, and writing sample should be submitted to Jane Bonner at jbonner@glsp.org. At the end of the Project, GLSP will make efforts for the Project attorney to continue employment as a GLSP attorney.

GLSP is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.. It is the policy of Georgia Legal Services Program not to discriminate against any applicant for employment because of race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, pregnancy, medical condition, national origin, disability, marital, or other protected status.

