



The nation's largest pro bono law firm

Accepting Fellowship Applicants HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION LAW PROJECT StayHousedLA Project

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Public Counsel is the largest *pro bono* public interest law firm in the country. Founded in 1970, it is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law and addressing economic, racial, and other inequities by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Public Counsel operates eight legal projects: Children's Rights, Community Development, Consumer Rights and Economic Justice, Homelessness Prevention, Immigrants' Rights, Veterans' Rights, the Audrey Irmis Project for Women & Girls' Rights, and our impact litigation project, Opportunity Under Law. Public Counsel has a full-time staff of over 130. We seek to have a racially inclusive staff.

Public Counsel's Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) serves individuals who are unhoused or at high risk of becoming homeless. Primarily, HPLP provides eviction defense services to low-income individuals who are facing the prospect of homelessness due to a pending "unlawful detainer" (eviction) case or other landlord-tenant dispute. HPLP also provides *pro bono* representation to homeless individuals and families to stabilize housing and secure food and other vital benefits. As a small part of its practice, HPLP and helps address tickets and warrants that present barriers to an individual's housing and stability.

The StayHousedLA program is a county-wide program that brings much-needed eviction defense services to low-income tenants throughout the county, in partnership with a coalition of other legal service providers and community-based organizations. Public Counsel is accepting fellowship applicants to join its StayHousedLA team and provide eviction-defense services as well as advice and counsel to tenants at risk of homelessness.

NOTE – This position is part of a special program created using designated funds. There is no assurance of ongoing funding or employment beyond twelve (12) months.

JOB SUMMARY

The fellowship position is a full-time position based at Public Counsel's 610 S. Ardmore office. It will involve off-site clinics, meetings and court appearances throughout Los Angeles County. The position has the following responsibilities:

- Carry a personal caseload litigating unlawful detainer (eviction) cases which includes: client interviews; drafting pleadings, motions, discovery, briefs, and correspondence; negotiating with outside parties; representing clients in court and conducting jury trials;
- Provide legal counsel and advice, and limited-scope representation to low-income individuals regarding evictions and related housing matters;
- Act as a resource regarding unlawful detainer cases and other housing issues for other Public Counsel staff, community-based organizations, and partner agencies;
- Work with a large network of *pro bono* attorneys to handle unlawful detainer cases and other housing

matters;

- Participate in community outreach, including preparing and presenting Know Your Rights trainings, and staffing community legal clinics;
- Assist with grant reporting, billing, and outcome tracking for housing work; and,
- Other duties as required by the development of our community lawyering efforts.

REQUIREMENTS

- Juris Doctor degree and a member in good standing of the California Bar, or scheduled to take the California Bar in July 2022;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Excellent negotiation and organizational skills;
- Ability to spot legal issues and comfort with providing real-time counsel & advice;
- Desire to learn as well as share knowledge with other team members;
- Good client skills and comfort working with indigent clients;
- Ability to work in a fast paced, high volume environment;
- Ability to commute throughout Los Angeles County;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Detail oriented; and
- Work well as part of a team, but also be able to work independently with minimal to moderate supervision.

We value lived experiences and experiences working with clients across a range of settings. Please consider discussing such experiences in your cover letter, especially if they are not reflected in your resume.

TO APPLY

If you are a fellowship applicant interested in the position, please email Interim Directing Attorney Silvana Naguib, snaguib@publiccounsel.org.

Public Counsel is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, political affiliation, condition of physical or mental disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, in accordance with requirements of Federal and State laws.

All qualified applicants with criminal histories will be considered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring.