

Staff Attorney

Housing Advocacy Under CT's New Right to Counsel Program

Bridgeport, CT

Connecticut's new Right to Counsel (RTC) program focuses on eviction defense and other housing matters. The Staff Attorney position in the CLS Housing Unit will be located in Bridgeport, CT. The Attorney will handle cases in their office's geographic coverage area, as determined by the priorities of the RTC program.

Responsibilities include legal representation and advice to individuals and families, including helping eligible clients access UniteCT rental and/or utility assistance payments.

Attorneys will receive extensive training in both the RTC and UniteCT programs and other areas of housing law and will:

- maintain an active caseload of representation and advice cases which will require regular remote court appearances (and-in person court appearances as the courts reopen), and administrative hearings, as appropriate;
- conduct community outreach and coordinate with other social service agencies working with our clients; and
- help identify larger trends and issues for our clients, while working with the Housing Unit to develop strategies to respond to those trends and issues.

START DATE: As soon as possible

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Deep and demonstrated commitment to advocacy on behalf of low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized communities, and to CLS' mission, vision, goals, and values;
- Spanish language fluency;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to write persuasively and clearly and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations;
- Demonstrated ability both to collaborate closely with colleagues and also to work independently when necessary;

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- Creativity and flexibility in solving problems and meeting challenges;
- Connecticut bar admission or passed the Connecticut bar exam and willing to be sworn in is required;
- Knowledge and experience in Connecticut court practice.

COMPENSATION: Salary depends on experience; excellent vacation/leave, health, and other benefits.

APPLICATION: Applicants should send a cover letter clearly describing their qualifications, a resume, a 3-7 page original writing sample, and the names and contact information for three references to applications@ctlegal.org CLS invites all applicants to include in their cover letter a statement about how their unique background and/or experiences might contribute to the diversity, cultural vitality, and perspective of our staff and legal services practice.

We will review applications on a rolling basis until we fill the positions. In order to expedite the internal sorting and reviewing process, please type your name (Last, First) and "RTC Attorney Application" as the only contents in the subject line of your e-mail.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION: CLS is Connecticut's largest non-profit law firm, providing free legal help to low-income people in areas including housing, consumer, elder, family law, public benefits, education, immigration, employment, and disability. With a staff of approximately 60 in seven offices across Connecticut, CLS fights for equal justice and improved life opportunities for more than 12,000 people every year.

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