



Call for Fellowship Applicants

Legal Action Chicago is interested in hosting one or more post-graduate fellows beginning in 2022, including fellows supported by the Skadden Fellowship Program.¹

About Legal Action Chicago

Legal Action Chicago is a newly-created subsidiary of Legal Aid Chicago, the Midwest's largest provider of free civil legal services to people who are living in poverty or otherwise vulnerable. Because we are not bound by the restrictions that prohibit Legal Aid Chicago from litigating class actions and pursuing legislative initiatives, we use these tools and other forms of community-based policy advocacy to effect systemic changes that help many people as opposed to a single individual. We also work closely with community groups to identify the most pressing issues affecting low-income families, with a special focus on racial equity.

Legal Action Chicago is a tight-knit organization with a small but experienced staff. Our Director was formerly the President of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, our supervising attorney has more than 30 years' experience at Legal Aid Chicago, and our staff attorney clerked for two federal appellate courts and has experience in both complex federal litigation and community-based policy initiatives.

Our work is not limited to a single issue area or advocacy method; for example, Legal Action Chicago has used a variety of litigation and policy advocacy tools to tackle issues ranging from harmful public housing rent policies to delays in the processing of unemployment insurance to the unnecessary hold-up of property transfers due to outstanding water bills. Our work spans the subject matter of all of Legal Aid Chicago's practice groups (Housing, Consumer, Children & Families, Public Benefits, and Immigration & Workers' Rights), and we welcome fellowship applicants who have cross-cutting interests and experiences.

Qualifications

Applicants should have the following:

- Experience with, or demonstrated commitment to, civil legal services.
- Excellent research, writing, and court advocacy skills.

*Legal Action Chicago would also welcome the opportunity to host fellows supported by other fellowship programs. If you are interested in applying for a different fellowship with Legal Action Chicago as the host organization, please follow the steps below.

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to work collaboratively in an interdisciplinary setting. We greatly value oral proficiency in languages other than English.
- Personal or professional experience with, or other demonstrated commitment to, our client communities, including people living in poverty. We encourage applicants to share that relevant experience in their cover letter.
- Preferred (not required) experience includes poverty law subject areas, civil rights, complex litigation, and/or legislative advocacy.

Applicants must have the following:

- An Illinois law license or the ability to become licensed in Illinois, or
- At least two years of completed law school credit at an ABA accredited school.

To Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following:

- Your resume and a cover letter highlighting your interest in and experience with civil legal services and our client communities, and describing any ideas for a fellowship proposal. (Please note that it is not necessary to have a proposal at this stage of the process.)
- A brief legal writing sample (2-4 pages).
- Your law school transcript.
- Contact information for two professional references.

These materials should be sent via email to contact@legalactionchicago.org. Please put “2022 Fellowships” in the subject line of the email. Applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with a priority on review of applications received no later than Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

Please note that Legal Action Chicago may decide to sponsor more than one individual for each Fellowship opportunity and that Fellowship awards are not guarantees of employment with Legal Action Chicago once the fellowship expires.

Legal Action Chicago is firmly committed to creating a diverse workplace and is proud to provide equal employment opportunities to all applicants and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of creed, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital or parental status, alienage, disability, political affiliation or belief, military or military discharge status, or ex-offender status. Applicants who have experiences with our client communities are encouraged to apply.