



JOB POSTING
Staff Attorney
Housing Practice Group
(Internal and External)

For over 50 years, Legal Aid Chicago has provided free civil legal assistance to people living in poverty in metropolitan Chicago. Each year our attorneys, volunteers, and staff help resolve civil legal problems, including domestic violence, consumer fraud, and unfair evictions. Legal Aid Chicago was founded on the philosophy that all individuals are entitled to quality civil legal representation, regardless of their income. We work to ensure that poverty is not an impediment to justice by dismantling the legal barriers that perpetuate inequality. Legal Aid Chicago staff live our mission through our core values of equity, excellence, inclusion, kindness, and respect.

Position: Legal Aid Chicago seeks full-time staff attorneys in our Housing Practice Group (HPG). HPG seeks to ensure that tenants live in decent, safe, and sanitary housing, free from discrimination and affirmatively furthers fair housing through litigation, negotiation, and advocacy in various venues. The HPG defends tenants – mostly subsidized housing residents - against unwarranted evictions and represents individuals and families who are facing the termination of their tenant-based rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program and other subsidized housing programs.

The positions will begin in October 2021 or as soon as possible.

HPG Staff Attorney-- 1-2 positions

Specific Responsibilities include

- Manage an individual caseload and provide full and effective legal representation to individuals and/or groups
- Maintain and grow knowledge in a specialized area of law, and competence in related areas of law
- Interview eligible clients on a wide range of housing issues and provide advice and brief services in appropriate cases
- Participate in complex litigation or advocacy to address systemic issues
- Work collaboratively with Legal Aid Chicago staff, students and volunteers to provide comprehensive legal services
- Conduct community education and outreach and build relationships with community partners in poverty fighting efforts

- Participate in training to agencies, advocates, clients, or community groups about legal services and rights impacting low income persons and other vulnerable persons
- Participate in other activities related to poverty law including publication, permissible legislative and administrative advocacy, media relations, and fundraising as needed
- Assist with grant reporting, as appropriate and applicable
- Handle other duties as determined by the Supervisory Attorneys and the Director.

HPG Staff Attorney in the Eviction Prevention in Chicagoland (EPIC) Project- 1 position

The EPIC Project staff attorney will work on the Eviction Prevention in Chicagoland (EPIC) Project. The attorney will increase the agency’s capacity to serve tenants facing eviction, with an emphasis on suburban tenants, by engaging and supporting pro bono attorneys.

Specific Responsibilities include:

- Develop and maintain knowledge of housing law applicable to eviction proceedings in Cook County in order to provide support to volunteers providing legal representation to clients in eviction matters including advice, settlement assistance and extended representation in court
- Train and support volunteer attorneys in providing advice, settlement assistance and representation to tenants facing eviction in Cook County
- Consult with and support volunteer attorneys during client interview and advice sessions conducted via Zoom
- Provide guidance to volunteer attorneys regarding substantive and procedural issues for clients in eviction proceedings, including co-counseling on some cases
- Perform project management duties, such as scheduling team meetings, monitoring progress toward project goals, and drafting project progress reports
- Assist with grant reporting, as appropriate and applicable
- Other duties in support of the Project as assigned.

Qualifications for all positions: Applicants must have a J.D. degree and be licensed to practice law in Illinois, licensed in another state and able to waive into the Illinois bar, or awaiting results from the July 2021 Illinois bar exam. The successful applicant will be collegial, well organized, and demonstrate a commitment to and experience with our client communities and/or people living in poverty, and applicants are encouraged to share that experience in their cover letter. Applicants must have excellent communication skills and the ability to work well under pressure.

Additional qualifications for the EPIC position

The ideal candidate will have 1-2 years advocacy experience. Experience in housing law preferred, specifically eviction proceedings. Experience coordinating volunteers, working with low-income populations, and organizing and implementing trainings, preferred.

Salary for all positions: Commensurate with experience. Legal Aid Chicago offers a comprehensive benefits package, including low-cost employer-paid health plan options,

employer-provided group life and long-term disability insurance, fitness center access, generous paid time off, and much more.

To Apply: Send your cover letter, resume, transcript, and the contact information of two professional references to: resume@legalaidchicago.org. Please place **“HPG Staff Attorney - Legal Aid Chicago”** in the subject line of your e-mail and please indicate which position(s) you are applying for. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the positions will remain open until filled. No phone or agency calls, please.

There are other open staff attorney positions in different practice groups. Please see our website for information. If you are interested in being considered for one or more of these other positions, you may apply for all positions with the same application. Simply indicate which positions you would like to be considered for in your cover letter and in the subject line of your email. No need to send multiple applications.

Legal Aid 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.