



JOB POSTING
Staff Attorney
Public Benefits 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 two full-time staff attorneys in our Public Benefits Practice Group. These positions will represent individuals concerning benefits from government agencies including the Department of Human Services and Social Security Administration. These benefits include AABD – Cash, Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Security Disability Insurance, and Supplemental Security Income. The positions will begin in October 2021 or as soon as possible.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain and grow knowledge related to Public Benefits to include benefits administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP, TANF) and the Social Security Administration
- Negotiate with agency representatives to resolve benefits disputes
- Represent clients in administrative hearings and in state and federal court
- Interview eligible clients on a wide range of public benefits 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

- Assist with grant reporting, as appropriate and applicable
- Handle other duties as determined by the Supervisory Attorneys and the Director.

Qualifications: 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. Spanish language fluency is a plus.

Salary: 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 “**PBPG Staff Attorney - Legal Aid Chicago**” in the subject line of your e-mail. 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.