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Position Type: Legal Fellowship

Commitment: Full Time, 1-2 Years

Experience: Entry Level (0-3 years)

Practice Areas: Homelessness Prevention, Consumer Rights/Economic Stability, and Advocacy for Skid Row Residents

Background on Inner City Law Center:

Inner City Law Center (ICLC) is a non-profit legal services organization headquartered on Skid Row in Los Angeles. ICLC has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable individuals and families in Los Angeles County since 1980. Founded on the basic principle that every human being should be treated with dignity and respect at all times, ICLC's staff of nearly 70 attorneys, advocates, tenant organizers, and other professionals, provides free legal representation and social service advocacy to thousands of homeless and working poor clients each year. For many clients, ICLC is the first step out of homelessness and into safe and dignified housing. ICLC is widely recognized for its expertise in housing issues, as well as government and veterans benefits.

As a fellow, you can create safe, healthy, and affordable housing, improve the quality of life for people living on the streets, and prevent families from being evicted into homelessness.

Fellowships:

ICLC invites rising 3Ls and recent law school graduates to apply for fellowships through Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Soros Justice Fellowship Program, and/or similar programs with ICLC as the host organization. In particular, ICLC is looking for students interested in working on the following projects:

- Homelessness Prevention – Research and analyze the impact of L.A.'s affordable housing and homelessness crisis on a particular group (e.g. woman, LGBTQ individuals, people of color, youth, etc.) and tackle the legal issues most likely to impact this group. Legal work may include, among other things, eviction defense matters, discrimination cases, reasonable accommodations work, and affirmative lawsuits.
- Consumer Rights/Economic Stability – Provide legal services to individuals in L.A. County whose homelessness or housing instability is impacted by debt, consumer fraud, and other economic issues. In addition to handling relevant cases, fellows will create a toolkit that can be replicated in other counties and states.
- Advocacy for Skid Row Residents – Work primarily with residents of Skid Row and low-income individuals whose housing security is connected to their animal companions. Fellows will handle a wide range of legal issues that arise, including but not limited to, advocacy on behalf of tenants and homeless individuals with service animals, reasonable accommodations cases, eviction defense matters, and affirmative lawsuits.

ICLC will work closely with selected candidates to develop the fellowship proposal.

Qualifications:

- Must graduate from law school prior to starting the fellowship,
- Must take the California Bar exam prior to starting the fellowship
- Have strong writing, research, and analytical skills,
- Be bright, passionate, and a hardworking team player,
- Be self-motivated and able to manage a variety of tasks, and
- Show a commitment to tenants' rights, veteran's rights, social justice, and public interest law.
- Spanish language skills preferred, but not required.

Competitive Applications:

Factors that will be utilized in evaluating candidates for sponsorship include:

- Potential for fellowship funding,
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law,
- Knowledge of, or strong interest in, the relevant issues presented in the fellowship proposal,
- Connection to, familiarity with, or experience working on social justice issues with low-income, diverse, and LEP communities,
- Fluency in Spanish,
- Oral advocacy, writing, and legal research skills, and
- Anticipated or current California Bar membership.

Application Instructions:

Individuals interested in receiving ICLC sponsorship for their fellowship application should send a cover letter indicating the project(s) they are interested in, a resume, a transcript, three references, and a writing sample via email to Vidhya Rangunathan, Pro Bono Coordinator at ICLC (vragunathan@innercitylaw.org). Subject line: ICLC-Sponsored Fellowship. Applicants may apply to multiple projects within ICLC, but only one application per project. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until August 1.