HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION/EVICTION DEFENSE POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Position Type: Legal Fellowships
Commitment: Full-time, two-year fellowships starting in Spring or Fall 2020
Experience: Entry Level (0-3 years)
Practice Areas: Homelessness Prevention, Landlord/Tenant, Eviction Defense

Background on Inner City Law Center: Inner City Law Center (ICLC) is a non-profit, poverty law firm headquartered in Los Angeles’ Skid Row neighborhood. ICLC has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable individuals and families in Los Angeles County since inception in a Skid Row soup kitchen in 1980. Founded on the basic principle that every human being should always be treated with dignity and respect, ICLC’s staff of 80 attorneys, paralegals, tenant organizers, and other professionals provides free legal representation to thousands of homeless and working poor clients. Every day, in Los Angeles County, 133 people exit homelessness – but over 150 people become homeless. The best way to end homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place. For many of our clients, preventing eviction from their homes is vital and life-changing because it keeps them from becoming homeless.

Fellowship Project: ICLC invites rising 3Ls and recent law school graduates to join ICLC’s fight to end homelessness by applying for a Homelessness Prevention/Eviction Defense Fellowship. The Homelessness Prevention/Eviction Defense Fellow will carry a caseload of eviction defense (unlawful detainer) cases and help expand our tenant defense work. The Fellow will engage in fast-paced litigation; work with an eviction defense team including attorneys and paralegals to negotiate with opposing counsel; work directly with clients to help them stay housed; prepare discovery requests and responses; draft pleadings, motions, and correspondence; negotiate settlements; conduct unlawful detainer trials; and pursue appellate remedies. In addition to carrying their own caseload, the Fellow will contribute to conversations surrounding housing policy in Los Angeles County and work closely with volunteer attorneys from private law firms who are providing pro bono representation to clients facing eviction. Through their work, the Fellow will create safe and affordable housing, prevent families from being evicted into homelessness, and help end homelessness in Los Angeles.

Qualifications:
- California Bar Membership or plan to take the bar exam in 2020,
- Strong writing, research, and analytical skills,
- Bright, good judgment, and work well with clients and team members,
- Self-motivated, organized, and detail-oriented, and
- Demonstrated commitment to tenants’ rights, social justice, or public interest law.

Application Instructions: Interested individuals should send a cover letter, resume, transcript, three references, and writing sample to Vidhya Ragunathan, Director of Pro Bono at ICLC (vragunathan@innercitylaw.org). Subject line: ICLC Homelessness Prevention/Eviction Defense Fellowship. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until March 2020.