

**CALIFORNIA
CHANGELAWYERS**

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LEGAL SERVICES
of
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Legal Services of Northern California
California ChangeLawyers Summer Legal Fellow
Ukiah, CA
May 20 – August 3, 2019 or May 28 – August 9, 2019**

About Legal Services of Northern California

The mission of Legal Services of Northern California is to provide quality legal services to empower the poor to identify and defeat the causes and effects of poverty within our community, efficiently utilizing all available resources.

For over 60 years, Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) has been fighting for the civil rights of our clients. LSNC is the strong voice that continues to speak out on behalf of our clients living in our communities, even as the state and local “safety nets” for the poor continue to crumble. LSNC provides crucial civil legal services to tens of thousands of needy and vulnerable individuals, while also engaging in complex, sophisticated advocacy—through litigation, legislation, administrative advocacy, and community development work—which has a significant positive impact for our entire client community in the areas of affordable housing, public benefits, health, education, and civil rights.

About the California ChangeLawyers Legal Fellowship Program

California ChangeLawyers (formerly California Bar Foundation) is a statewide foundation that empowers the next generation of lawyers, judges, and activists to create a more diverse legal profession, a fair justice system, and a better California. The foundation believes that a state as diverse as California should have a justice system led by advocates of all ethnicities and races.

ChangeLawyers Fellowships support bright, diverse ChangeLawyers who are committed to righting historical wrongs. Grants are awarded to legal aid organizations to cover the cost of hiring legal fellows from diverse backgrounds. This is a double impact investment. The foundation supports organizations on the front lines of social justice while at the same time creating jobs for diverse lawyers. This creates better, more authentic outcomes for communities—communities who can see and interact with lawyers who look like them.

Position Description

With support from California ChangeLawyers, we seek to hire a full-time, Summer Legal Fellow in Ukiah, California from May 20 through August 3, 2019 or May 28 through August 9, 2019. The Fellow will work on a disaster relief project, as well as conduct client intake.

In the last four years, our 23-county northern California service area has seen at least one disastrous wildfire every fire season. According to CalFire, four of the five top largest California wildfires have occurred in this decade.¹ The unfortunate reality is that fires are likely here to stay

¹ https://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Top20_Acres.pdf

and we must act quickly to confront the legal issues facing our communities before and after wildfire strikes. In our recent relief work, we have observed a plethora of services and resources available to English-speaking residents. There is a widening gap/lack of fire relief resources for our Spanish-speaking residents, as well as our Native American residents. The ChangeLawyers Fellow would address these disparities by gathering and archiving existing fire relief resources, assessing resource gaps for Latinx and Native American residents, and creating and distributing linguistically and culturally competent resources.

While the Fellow will primarily focus on their disaster relief project, they will also interview clients, conduct legal research and writing, and draft memos.

Educational Requirements

Currently enrolled in a J.D. program.

Salary Range

\$7,283 (\$17.65/hr) – English only

\$7,550 (\$18.30/hr) – Bilingual (passing LSNC's language test)

Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefit plan offered.

Other Responsibilities

- Attend a mandatory two-day skills training in Sacramento from May 28 to May 29, 2019
- Attend one to two more training sessions in Sacramento throughout the summer
- Travel between Mendocino and Lake counties

To Apply

Please send a detailed cover letter, résumé, unofficial law school transcript, and three references to Jenni Gomez at probono@lsnc.net with the subject line: **2019 ChangeLawyers Summer Fellowship**

The cover letter must answer the following questions (in any format):

1. Why is wildfire disaster relief work important to you?
2. What skills or experiences do you have working with marginalized communities, particularly the Latinx and Native American communities?

UPDATED: Please apply no later than January 25, 2019. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled, and applicants selected for interviews will be duly notified.

LSNC PROVIDES A BILINGUAL BONUS FOR EMPLOYEES WHO SPEAK A SECOND LANGUAGE, OTHER THAN ENGLISH, COMMONLY SPOKEN BY CLIENTS WHEN THE SECOND LANGUAGE IS USED ON THE JOB FOR WHICH THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED.

LSNC IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES WOMEN, PEOPLE OF COLOR, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, OLDER PEOPLE, AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE TO APPLY.