



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(Please Post)

Rural Disaster Legal Services Fellowship

Redding, California

Full-Time

Temporary (18 Months commencing in late August 2024)

LSNC announces its inaugural Rural Disaster Legal Services Fellowship - a limited and unique opportunity for a current third-year law student to launch their legal career by providing vital legal services, advocacy and education to the most vulnerable individuals impacted by natural disasters. The fellow will focus on legal services and advocacy that will build resilience and help impacted communities to recover and prepare for future events. The fellow will provide direct legal assistance to individuals impacted by disasters, coordinate with disaster services providers, attend specialized disaster law training, collaborate with leaders in the state and national disaster legal services network, prepare and present community legal education, conduct targeted efforts to reach the most vulnerable communities, and assist in legal response work to current or future disasters throughout LSNC's service area.

POSITION: Rural Disaster Legal Services Fellow

TO APPLY: Send cover letter describing interest in the fellowship, résumé, three professional references (including name, title, telephone number and email address), and a writing sample to:

Amy Williams, Deputy Director
Legal Services of Northern California
517 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
awilliams@lsnc.net

If sending application via email, please attach materials as a single PDF.

APPLICATION

DEADLINE: February 15, 2024

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

Founded in 1956, Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) provides high quality civil legal assistance to people with low income, older adults and persons with disabilities in more than 23 northern California counties. LSNC has eight field offices and several special projects. LSNC maintains a robust disaster legal services practice, under the leadership of the Regional Counsel for Elder and Disaster Law.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under supervision of the Shasta Regional Office Managing Attorney, the fellow will participate in all aspects of advocacy and litigation including, but not limited to: client interviews, factual investigation, legal research, discovery, preparation of legal documents, negotiations, trials, and appellate work in both state and federal courts; appear at administrative hearings; provide legal advice to individual clients, and general legal information to eligible community groups as well as to the public in general. Engagement with the broader statewide and national disaster legal services community, including attendance at specialized training and conferences. Travel throughout LSNC's service area, to areas impacted by or at risk for significant disaster events is required. Interaction with people who have experienced the impacts of disaster events, including trauma and loss, is a central function of the position.

QUALIFICATIONS CRITERIA:

- a. Knowledge of the principles and procedures of litigation in state and federal Courts, administrative agencies and hearing rights; substantive areas of law relevant to program/office case priorities; principles of community development and establishment of working relationships; the theories of changes in the law and how to implement strategies for developing changes; principles and procedures of legislative advocacy; the importance of written reports to management; computer research methods.
- b. Skills: Client interviewing, investigation, legal research, analytical reasoning ability, creativity, excellent English writing skills, negotiation, trial skills, appellate writing and oral argument, communication/listening skills, ability to work under stress and short time lines, ability and desire to work with/for poor people, people with disabilities, people who have experienced the impacts of a disaster event, and other under-served populations; ability to empathize with the client community, and the ability to do computer research.
- c. Language: An ability to relate to the client community being served; bilingual in a language spoken by client communities preferred, but not required.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Applicants must be third-year law students enrolled in an ABA accredited law school who will be awarded a J.D. by June 2024, who will take the July 2024 California Bar Examination and meet all other requirements for admission to the Bar. Legal graduates or attorneys who are completing a judicial clerkship(s) or public interest fellowship that commenced immediately after law school are also eligible to apply and must be members of the California Bar or eligible for membership under the same terms as third-year law students.

SALARY RANGE: \$5,607 (Legal Graduate/Step 1) to \$5,688 (Step 2) per month DOE
See LSNC's Policy on Salary Scales and Scale Placement at lsnc.net

BENEFITS: Legal Services of Northern California offers an excellent fringe benefit plan.

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.