

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Staff Attorney for Skagit Legal Aid Housing Justice Project

Skagit Legal Aid (SLA) provides access to justice for low income and historically marginalized individuals and communities and combats systemic racism and other forms of discrimination by expanding access to civil legal justice.

SLA is seeking a Full-Time **Bilingual (English/Spanish)** Staff Attorney for its Housing Justice Project to represent eligible tenants in unlawful detainer actions.

SLA is especially interested in qualified candidates with professional, personal and/or service experience that allows them to contribute to and support the legal aid community's commitment to race equity. Candidates must be willing to regularly engage with the community to be served.

General Duties

The Staff Attorney will undertake a range of duties including, but not limited to:

- Represent individuals found eligible for representation in unlawful detainer actions in the Skagit County Superior Court and San Juan County Superior Court. Additionally, the staff attorney will assist individuals with unfiled unlawful detainer actions as appropriate.
- Use strategic methods and a broad range of advocacy tools to address high priority, eviction-related client needs, with particular focus on legal needs of persons and groups that experience special barriers to accessing civil legal services, including immigrants, tribal members, youth, seniors, disabled persons, and other groups.
- Engage with the communities of people at risk of eviction at regular legal clinics and participate in legal education events for groups, social and human services providers and justice system stakeholders, and serve as a resource to other advocates working on landlord-tenant and eviction related issues.
- Collaborate with providers of rental assistance, mediation, and other legal aid providers to ensure low-income renters have equal access to housing justice.
- Utilize SLA's case management and timekeeping systems and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements and reporting needs.

- Support the work of SLA's eviction defense partners including private volunteer attorneys, programs serving the needs of unrepresented litigants, other legal aid providers and interested parties and organizations addressing the legal needs of low-income persons.

Qualifications

- **Must be Bilingual (Read, speak, and write clearly in English/Spanish).**
- Washington State Bar Association membership in good standing, the ability to acquire membership through admission by motion, or ability to take the next Washington bar exam is required.
- Should be culturally competent and have demonstrated commitment or experience working with low-income client communities, communities of color, limited English speakers and persons with disabilities.
- Litigation experience, with particular experience in Superior Court, tenant rights, and on matters related to housing is preferred.
- Experience or demonstrated interest in substantive areas or other legal issues that affect low-income communities is preferred.
- Travel around Skagit County and reliable transportation is required.
- People of color, LGBTQ people, and those from tribal, indigenous, or farmworking communities are strongly encouraged to apply;

Compensation

Starting salary is based upon years of experience, with an annual salary range of \$60,000 to \$68,000. Benefits include a Qualified Small Employer Healthcare Reimbursement Account which covers health, dental, and vision insurance premiums and other health care expenses, retirement investment plan with employer contribution, professional development opportunities, paid vacation and sick leave and more.

Work Environment

SLA's typical client office hours are 9:00 – 5:00, Monday through Friday. Attorney positions are exempt and those in the position are expected to work the hours needed to meet their professional responsibilities.

SLA's office is located in Mount Vernon, Washington. This will be a hybrid position with the opportunity to work from home, in office, and around SLA's service area.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to director@skagitvlp.org. Cover letter should include description of any experience, personal or professional, with low income or other marginalized communities. SLA is especially interested in qualified candidates whose professional, personal and/or service experience allow them to contribute to and support the legal aid community's commitment to race equity.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

SLA has adopted the Washington Race Equity and Justice Initiative (REJI) and is organizationally committed to fight racism and to incorporate equity and inclusion in our advocacy work and our internal systems and work environment. SLA expects all staff to uphold the REJI commitments and approach their role with a desire to learn and grow in this area.