



BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR – TENANT RIGHTS COALITION

Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS) seeks an experienced housing attorney to direct its Tenant Rights Coalition (TRC). The TRC is dedicated to tenant empowerment and anti-displacement work in neighborhoods facing heightened gentrification and tenant displacement as a result of rezoning actions by the City and abusive practices by predatory landlords. The TRC utilizes a movement lawyering model in close collaboration with tenant leaders and tenant organizing groups throughout the borough; specifically in the neighborhoods of East New York, Brownsville, and Flatbush. The team performs various types of advocacy to support collective action taken by tenants and tenant associations which includes, but is not limited to, pre-litigation efforts, eviction defense, affirmative filings at Housing Court, Supreme Court, and filing complaints with various city and state administrative agencies. Our main office is located in Brownsville, with some members of our team working from an office in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Our team consists of approximately 30 members including supervisors, attorneys, paralegals, and essential staff all working in tandem to provide client-centered and tenant-led representation.

As part of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS) provides high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Brooklyn's diverse low-income population. BLS has several different practice areas which focus on the problems that have the greatest impact on the communities we serve, e.g., preventing evictions and preserving affordable housing, maintaining income support, redressing abusive lending and consumer practices, promoting family stability and mitigating effects of domestic violence, and advocating for the disabled.

LSNYC prides itself on its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts. As a social justice organization, we are committed to fighting for a workplace that is as diverse, equitable, and inclusive as possible for everyone. Our DEI committee and numerous affinity groups work to foster collegial relationships among staff at all levels, and allow staff to explore and advocate for racial justice and anti-oppression growth within our organization and through our legal work. All employees are expected to learn about, seek to understand, and work to realize our DEI goals. Every supervisor is expected to actively engage in learning and becoming increasingly skilled in supervision that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion. The TRC Director's duties will include actively working to advance LSNYC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals.

LSNYC provides numerous opportunities for growth and professional development. Our Learning Center provides opportunities to earn free CLE credits and gain experience as a trainer. In recent years we hired The Management Center to teach management skills to our directors and supervisors, and we encourage and support supervisors and directors to attend local and national training series for supervision skills and management.

Role & Responsibilities:

The Director will work to support TRC's existing advocacy efforts and work to expand those efforts. The TRC Director will, among other responsibilities, do the following:

- Work with the TRC team to shape the direction of the unit to support its mission;
- Manage operations, including administrative and grant reporting, in coordination with the TRC supervisors and BLS' Director of Litigation;
- Supervise and mentor TRC's team of supervisors and staff on a wide range of advocacy including pre-litigation efforts, affirmative group litigation, and individual eviction defense;
- Work closely with tenant leaders, tenant organizing groups, and city and statewide coalitions to support goals and help meet community needs;
- Work to advance LSNYC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals.
- Develop and strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, elected officials and agency officials;
- Maintain a modest caseload and identify systemic housing-related trends that could be affected by strategic litigation;
- Work collaboratively with the BLS Housing Unit and provide support for LSNYC's citywide housing practice; and,
- Create and adapt systems and provide training with and for the team, allowing input and encouraging feedback.

Experience & Qualifications:

We seek an attorney admitted to the New York State Bar with:

- A demonstrated commitment to creative and anti-racist advocacy with a strong desire to empower low-income tenants to assert their right to safe and affordable homes;
- Minimum of 5 years housing litigation experience with knowledge of local, state and federal housing law and policy, deep familiarity with housing court practice, housing programs and subsidies, and public benefits;
- Excellent legal writing, litigation, and advocacy skills;
- Strong interpersonal, teaching/training and organizational skills;
- Preferred, but not required, experience:
 - supervising unionized staff,

- working with grassroots organizations,
- supporting community-based organizing,
- policy, legislative, and media advocacy, and,
- proficiency in Spanish or another language commonly spoken in the communities we serve.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to

bkhiring@lsnyc.org

Please write "TRC Director" in the subject line.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls please.

BLS offers an excellent benefits package and highly competitive public interest salary. We offer excellent benefits, including health, dental, and vision plans; contributions to a 403(b) plan; and generous leave time. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Brooklyn Legal Services is an equal opportunity employer: people of color; women; people with disabilities; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people; and people over the age of 40 are welcome and encouraged to apply. We are committed to race, gender, and economic justice in our work and within our workplace. Staff members who are not managers are members of the LSSA/NOLSW UAW Local 2320.

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