

## **Job Description- Social Security Specialist Attorney**

### **About Legal Council for Health Justice**

Legal Council for Health Justice (Legal Council) seeks an experienced Social Security Specialist Attorney to help lead our Social Security Administration (SSA) casework across the agency. This role also requires the subject-matter expertise to engage both state-wide and at the federal level in impact advocacy on SSA programs. The ideal candidate will be highly organized, detail-oriented, and an effective communicator committed to social justice. The position reports to the Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy.

Legal Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer: People of color, women, persons with disabilities, seniors, LGBTQ+ and Veterans are welcomed and strongly encouraged to apply. Legal Council believes that personnel diversity is an organizational strength and recognizes and values the intersectional identities that staff members bring to our organization. We are enriched by the diverse experiences, beliefs, and ways of thinking that employees of different backgrounds bring.

Founded in 1987, Legal Council is a non-profit law office that finds legal remedies for discrimination, disadvantage, and disparities in health equity and well-being across the lifespan of Illinoisans impacted by life-changing medical conditions.

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Litigate individual cases before the SSA and handle appellate cases at the Appeals Council and in federal court;
- Provide technical assistance to and co-counseling with legal staff on SSA issues and cases;
- Provide leadership in the agency on matters of Social Security policy and law including: updating staff on Social Security changes, developing and conducting periodic training on matters of interest for Social Security practitioners inside and outside of the agency, and establishing and maintaining agency-wide best practices for SSA cases;
- Assist staff in working effectively with SSA staff at District Offices, BDDSs, and OHO's; and
- Work effectively with both state and national advocates on SSA policy/legal issues.

### **Job Requirements:**

- J.D. degree and be admitted to the Illinois Bar or be eligible for admission through reciprocity.
- Seven or more years of experience handling SSA cases at all levels of administrative appeals and federal court appeals;
- Experience with identifying and addressing systemic issues in SSA cases;

- Demonstrated experience providing education and training on SSA issues;
- Policy advocacy experience with SSA is a plus;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Excellent organizational skills; and
- Experience juggling projects with multiple deadlines.

**Relevant experience includes not only professional advocacy on behalf of others, but personal experience with poverty, chronic illness, HIV, mental illness, racism and its consequences, public housing or other issues affecting our client population.**

**How to Apply:** To apply, email a resume, compelling cover letter, writing sample, and two professional references to: [job@legalcouncil.org](mailto:job@legalcouncil.org), attn.: Carrie Chapman, Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy.

**Salary:** Salary is commensurate with experience and based on agency salary scale (\$72,000 to \$85,000 depending on experience).