

Job Description - Staff Attorney

About Legal Council for Health Justice

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.

Legal Council for Health Justice (Legal Council) seeks a staff attorney to provide a wide range of civil legal services to persons impacted by HIV and other highly vulnerable populations in our AIDS Legal Council program. AIDS Legal Council program works closely with social service agencies, community groups, AIDS service organizations, and medical providers across the city. Our team of attorneys and legal advocates work on-site in healthcare clinics to counsel and represent clients impacted by HIV. Legal issues include eligibility for public benefits, access to healthcare and health insurance, discrimination, employment rights, and medical confidentiality. Our legal work encompasses individual representation, policy work with legislative bodies and administrative agencies, and impact litigation.

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.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Provide legal representation, legal counsel, and referrals to eligible clients in a wide range of legal areas including public benefits, employment, disability discrimination, medical/HIV confidentiality and housing;
- Co-counsel cases with less experienced attorneys, legal advocates, and law students at Legal Council;
- Assist in training of other Legal Council staff members, evaluation of staff where appropriate, and provide consultation and advice at the request of other staff members;
- Coordinate and assist with management of on-site legal clinics and intake at medical outreach sites;
- Plan, implement, and document outreach and trainings for community partners;
- Engage in, impact litigation, administrative, and legislative advocacy; and
- Assist in support and oversight of community organizer, paralegals, law students, and volunteer attorneys.

Job Requirements:

All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the mission of LCHJ and have:

- J.D. degree and be admitted to the Illinois Bar or be eligible for admission through reciprocity;
- Three to five years of experience representing low-income clients;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Spanish proficiency is a plus.

In addition, candidates should discuss any experience in the following areas in their cover letters:

- Social Security, Medicaid and other public benefits programs;
- HIV discrimination and privacy rights;
- Litigation experience;
- General poverty law;
- Medical Legal Partnerships;
- Community Organizing;
- Working with the LGBTQ+ community;
- Working with people living with HIV; and
- Other Relevant Experience as defined below.

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, cover letter, writing sample, and two professional references to:

Kenya Burnett, Director, AIDS Legal Council
job@legalcouncil.org

Salary: Salary is commensurate with experience and based on agency salary scale (\$60,000 to \$71,000) depending on experience).