



Position Title: Health Starts at Home Project Attorney

Date Posted: March 26, 2018

Application Deadline: As soon as possible / until position is filled

Note: Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis; interested & qualified applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Position Background and Description: Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), a nationally-recognized nonprofit statewide poverty law and policy center, seeks an attorney with a background in housing law and family homelessness issues to direct the legal component of a health/early education/legal project that is currently underway.

About MLRI: MLRI's mission is to advance economic, racial, and social justice through legal action, advocacy, coalition building, and community outreach. MLRI is cross-substantive and specializes in large-scale legal initiatives and systemic reforms that address the root causes of poverty, remove barriers to opportunity, and create a path to economic stability and mobility for low-income individuals, families and communities. For 50 years, MLRI's advocacy has been responsible for groundbreaking laws, policies and court decisions that have advanced the legal, economic and social rights of low-income people in Massachusetts. MLRI also serves as the statewide poverty law support center for the Massachusetts civil legal services delivery system, providing expertise and support to local legal aid programs and also to a large number of local and statewide social service agencies, health care and human service providers, and community based organizations that serve low income people.

About the Opportunity: In 2017, MLRI, Boston Children's Hospital, Horizons for Homeless Children, and others, with a Health Starts at Home (HSAH) grant from The Boston Foundation (TBF), partnered to develop and launch an integrated, care-coordinated project (called "Mortar Between the Bricks") to stabilize families with children who are experiencing housing insecurity and/or homelessness. Along with child physical and psychosocial care provided by Children's Hospital Primary Care at Martha Eliot Health Center, the Project partners are working together to provide housing stability, child development assessment and access to early education, and wraparound stabilization services and supports to participating low income families. This is a research project that is being evaluated by Health Resources in Action and the Urban Institute. Legal intervention is a key component of this project. This is an exciting opportunity for an attorney interested in housing and health policy and research around the social determinants of health.

Key Responsibilities: The HSAH Attorney will continue to coordinate the Project's legal team and legal advocacy. Responsibilities include providing housing and Emergency Shelter (EA) legal advice and counsel to Boston Children's Hospital families, social work and medical staff who work with housing insecure and homeless families; case investigation; drafting legal documents; representation of clients in court and administrative proceedings; filing affirmative litigation and appeals when appropriate; referring cases as appropriate to project partners. In addition, the attorney will work with Project partners to develop and provide shelter- and housing-related legal trainings to provider partners, and trainings (e.g., "know your rights") to empower housing insecure and homeless families. Although the key focus of the position is to help families achieve housing stability or access to shelter, the HSAH Attorney will be cross-substantive in nature; it is expected that he/she and will often

work with families, in collaboration with Project legal team partners, on a broad range of legal issues (including, e.g., public benefits). The Attorney may also work on MLRI's statewide housing and homelessness advocacy.

Desired Background & Qualifications:

- J.D. and licensed to practice law in Massachusetts
- Minimum 3 years post-law school legal experience, with litigation experience
- Experience in housing law and policy (e.g., public and subsidized housing issues, landlord tenant issues, eviction defense, foreclosures)
- Experience or knowledge of issues, services and supports for very low income and homeless families in Massachusetts
- Experience or knowledge working with Massachusetts housing and public benefits programs and agencies that serve low income people is strongly preferred
- Excellent writing and legal research skills
- Technology savvy (including ability to work with databases)
- Ability to identify complex cross-substantive legal issues
- Excellent oral communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to lead and coordinate a team of partners
- Ability to work collaboratively as a team member, yet independently to execute the responsibilities of the job
- Commitment to MLRI's mission to serve low-income and vulnerable populations
- Spanish-speaking candidate preferred

Compensation: Position is full-time, though part-time employment may be negotiable. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent benefits package.

Application Process:

Qualified applicants must electronically submit the following: 1) cover letter explaining interest in and qualifications for the position, 2) resume, 3) one short writing sample, 4) three professional references.

Electronically submit application materials to HSAHAtty@mlri.org with "HSAH Project Attorney" in the subject line. **No telephone calls please.**

Applications will be reviewed as received & interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.
Qualified candidates should submit applications as early as possible.

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of age, class, color, disability, ethnicity, faith, gender, national origin, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. MLRI strives for racial and ethnic diversity because it is critical both to achieving MLRI's mission and to operating in a way that is consistent with MLRI's organizational values. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.