



Position Title: Health Starts at Home Project Attorney

Application Deadline: As soon as possible / October 14, 2016

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 coordinate the legal team of a health-early education-legal project.

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 almost 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: MLRI, Boston Children's Hospital, and Horizons for Homeless Children, with a Health Starts at Home (HSAH) grant from The Boston Foundation (TBF), have partnered to develop an integrated, care-coordinated project ("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 and Longwood, the Project partners will work 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 will be evaluated by Health Resources in Action and the Urban Institute. Legal intervention is a key component of this project. MLRI has partnered with the Lawyer's Clearinghouse for Affordable Housing and Homelessness and with Boston Children's Hospital Stuart J. Novick Legal Fellow to provide legal counsel on a range of issues to Boston Children's Hospital patient-families who will participate in 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 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).

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 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
- Bi-lingual (especially Spanish-speaking) is highly desirable

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.