



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

*building communities, ensuring opportunity, achieving justice*

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### **STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION FOR TENANT RIGHTS PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM**

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (Brooklyn A) seeks an attorney to work in its Preserving Affordable Housing Program., Group Representation Unit, which brings affirmative litigation on behalf of low-income tenants in Brooklyn. Since 1968, Brooklyn A has provided free legal services for low-income residents and organizations of Brooklyn, pursuing a uniquely neighborhood-based mission of justice, empowerment and community development.

The attorney will join Brooklyn A's Group Representation Unit of its Preserving Affordable Housing team. The Group Representation Unit works in collaboration with an extraordinary coalition of neighborhood organizations throughout North, East, and Central Brooklyn to preserve and expand affordable housing for lower income residents in neighborhoods facing rapid gentrification and tenant displacement. The attorney will work both alone and with other attorneys to represent: low-income tenant associations against their harassing owners; individuals and families facing eviction; community institutions facing closures or adverse actions due to extraordinary market pressures; low-income tenants in fair housing litigation; as well as community groups involved in struggles against pervasive housing discrimination, neighborhood segregation, and other issues critically affecting the future of their communities.

This position will involve representing tenant associations and individual tenants in Brooklyn suffering from harassment and displacement particularly due to prior/imminent local rezonings.

The attorney will work to stop such pernicious practices in these communities by: bringing innovative, affirmative litigation to protect tenants' rights and their homes; defending tenants in eviction proceedings; combating systemic housing discrimination through enforcement actions under fair housing laws; representing tenants in administrative proceedings; and providing advice and legal services to help improve conditions in their homes and buildings. The attorney will collaborate with organizers from local community-based organizations and coalitions in order to conduct Know-Your-Rights housing workshops, clinics, and other educational efforts to ensure that tenants are aware of their protections under housing laws. The attorney will also be expected to participate in neighborhood advocacy efforts to stop tenant harassment, displacement, and residential segregation; participate in citywide dialogue around these issues; and contribute to the Unit's efforts to shape our housing advocacy and legal strategy so as to effectively respond to the ongoing needs of our communities.

Candidates must have relevant interest, experience, skills and commitment. Spanish language ability is a major plus, but not required; willingness, desire, and ability to attend evening tenant association and



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community meetings are required.

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

- Admission to the bar of the State of New York or eligible for admission
- Have experience working in housing court, or other relevant public interest litigation experience; the ideal candidate would have one to four years relevant litigation experience
- Cultural competence demonstrated through present or past residence in, or employment at organizations serving, our clients' communities
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate with individuals from diverse backgrounds and local organizations.
- Experience working with low-income tenant groups, community organizations and/or coalitions
- Have excellent legal writing, litigation and advocacy skills
- Have excellent interpersonal skills
- Effective communication skills, including the ability to work with people in desperate crisis
- Ability to work independently with strong motivation, to manage a high case load, track case data, meet deadlines, and to be flexible
- Computer proficiency sufficient to independently review and generate materials relevant to the position as well as track client information in our database, prepare reports for grantors, attend meetings, and perform tasks related to the work such as timekeeping and case notes.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate with individuals from diverse backgrounds and local organizations.

Applicants possessing the following qualifications will be viewed favorably:

- Fluency in Spanish or Polish
- Experience in housing law practice
- Demonstrated ability to publish articles effectively advocating on behalf of clients and Brooklyn A

Brooklyn A is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, religion/creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, victim of domestic violence status or marital status. Salary will be commensurate with experience; excellent health and other benefits will be provided.

To apply, forward a cover letter with your resume to:

Human Resources Department  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A  
E-mail: [BKAjobs@bka.org](mailto:BKAjobs@bka.org)

Put 'Group Representation Staff Attorney' in the subject line