

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY – FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PRESERVATION

SUMMARY

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) seeks a Senior Staff Attorney to lead the organization's federally assisted housing preservation portfolio at the national level and support preservation efforts across the country focused on the inventory of federally assisted housing. This position will lead litigation efforts to preserve subsidized housing and provide litigation and other support to attorneys in the network engaged in preservation work. NHLP is actively involved in policy advocacy, training, litigation, and technical assistance around a range of federal housing programs, civil rights and fair housing matters, and eviction prevention. Federally assisted housing preservation is a central part of NHLP's expertise and advocacy and a key need among our 2,000+ legal aid attorneys who are a part of the Housing Justice Network. This is a dynamic position that will allow the attorney to work with advocates throughout the country and with a tremendous team at NHLP.

ABOUT NHLP

The National Housing Law Project's mission is to advance housing justice for poor people and communities. We achieve this by strengthening and enforcing the rights of tenants, increasing housing opportunities for underserved communities, and preserving and expanding the nation's supply of safe and affordable homes. NHLP works at the crossroads of housing and community development advocacy, legal services for the poor, and civil rights. We believe that access to safe, decent, and affordable housing is a fundamental human right that should be enjoyed by everyone. Our work is grounded in the realities that shape poor people's housing choices. Housing security is an essential component of racial and civil equality and a critical foundation for education, health, employment, social engagement, and opportunity. We provide communities and their advocates with the tools they need to advance those rights. NHLP has offices in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

The National Housing Law Project is committed to an environment of inclusion and equitable opportunity for members of the Housing Justice Network, our partner organizations, clients, staff, and board. We seek to hire individuals from diverse backgrounds, especially people with lived experiences impacted by housing insecurity and discrimination, or who have experienced the intersection of multiple systems of discrimination. We actively promote mutual respect, acceptance, appreciation and teamwork across all lines of difference.

SCOPE OF THE POSITION

The Senior Staff Attorney will provide leadership for NHLP's federally assisted housing preservation work, lead NHLP's preservation team, partner with NHLP staff and other organizations to build campaigns to preserve federally assisted housing and litigate key preservation cases with local legal aid partners. This position will help local attorneys, organizers and tenants advance preservation strategies and will advance racial equity through tenant-centered advocacy to improve housing conditions and tenant rights. The Senior Staff Attorney will primarily focus on three federal housing programs: HUD's Multifamily Housing Programs, the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, and the Public Housing Program, with some coverage of NHLP's Rural Development and LIHTC preservation portfolio. The Senior Staff Attorney's responsibilities will include providing technical assistance, training, and policy advocacy as well as litigating preservation cases (co-counseling and providing litigation support). The Senior Staff Attorney will also supervise and manage one attorney staff member and lead strategic planning for NHLP's preservation team.

The position is responsible for providing substantive legal and technical support to housing attorneys, other housing advocates, resident organizations, and nonprofit agencies in furtherance of federally assisted housing preservation. The attorney will be responsible for supporting the development and coordination of national working groups on federally assisted housing preservation, coordinating with the other members of the preservation team, and advancing policies to support preservation. With the support of NHLP's Director of Litigation, the Senior Staff Attorney will pursue impact litigation.

NHLP delivers most of its services by phone, video or email, although the staff attorney may occasionally travel for litigation, policy advocacy, conferences or to provide in-person trainings. The attorney can be located anywhere in the United States with remote options available.

REQUISITE SKILLS

- J.D. degree and a license to practice law
- A minimum of 7 years of relevant legal experience
- A demonstrated, strong commitment to advancing the housing rights and interests of very low-income persons and households
- Understanding of and work experience with the federally-assisted housing programs, especially HUD programs, is required
- Understanding of and work experience with Fair Housing laws
- Supervision and/or management experience
- Strong interpersonal and relationship-building skills in a variety of contexts with a variety of stakeholders (e.g. advocates, organizers, government, policy makers)
- Excellent research and analytical skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills (written, verbal, non-verbal)
- A demonstrated, strong commitment to advancing racial justice, diversity, and inclusion
- Ability to effectively manage one's time and attention between urgent deadlines and long-term projects in an organized way
- Enjoy working collaboratively in a team setting

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary will depend on the qualifications of the applicant but will be tied to NHLP's attorney salary scale. The salary scale is dependent on years of professional service. Attorneys with 7 years of experience start at \$100,000. Attorneys with 15 years or more start at \$128,000 or higher, depending on experience. NHLP provides fully paid health, dental, vision and other insurance for its employees. NHLP also contributes 3% of salary to an employer-sponsored 401(k).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications should include the name of the position in the subject line. Please email the following to hr@nhlp.org:

- Cover letter (no more than 2 pages) that details your interest in NHLP and the position and briefly describes how your work experience and skills relate to the job description
- Resume
- Three references that we can contact
- A writing sample that is no more than 10 pages

The position was posted on December 19, 2024. This position will remain open until filled but an initial review of applications will occur starting on January 20, 2025. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit their application by this initial review date.

CLASSIFICATION: Exempt

REPORTS TO: Deputy Director

LOCATION: Flexible, remote options available