

## **Job Opportunity: Housing Staff Attorney**

January 2010

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that serves as the legal arm of the national movement to end homelessness. NLCHP has been advocating successfully for over 20 years for systemic law and policy reform to prevent and end homelessness. Among other accomplishments, NLCHP's successes include winning education rights for homeless children, securing housing rights for survivors of domestic abuse, enforcing laws that allow for conversion of unneeded federal property into housing and services for homeless individuals, and enforcing the civil rights of homeless people.

NLCHP seeks a staff attorney to advocate for increased housing and other resources for homeless people, with a primary focus on increasing access to and availability of vacant federal and other properties for use as resources for homeless people, and to assist with other organizational initiatives.

### Key Responsibilities

- Conduct outreach on the two federal programs that currently provide for use of federal properties to house and assist homeless people, including updating materials and publications; conducting trainings, presentations, and outreach for a variety of audiences;
- Monitor federal agency compliance with the laws, as well as federal court orders obtained by NLCHP; work with community groups and pro bono law firms to litigate to enforce if needed;
- Respond to requests for technical assistance from legal services lawyers, housing providers, and other providers and advocates around the country;
- Develop and advocate for recommendations to improve and to expand the current programs, including the supply of properties made available and to hold agencies accountable
- Survey and assess state and local vacant property programs, and promote successful models;
- Develop and oversee law firm pro bono projects relevant to vacant property program;
- Work closely with coalitions of national, state, and/or local advocates working to end homelessness;
- Work closely with NLCHP's human rights program to advance the human right to housing;
- Manage the vacant property program, including being primarily responsible for shaping, prioritizing and implementing program goals and activities; and assisting in grant reporting.

### Qualifications

- J.D. required, two years of post-J.D. experience preferred;
- Excellent legal research, writing, and analytical skills, strong oral communication skills, and interest in public speaking and training;
- Ability to work both as a self-starter and as part of a team;
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing social justice, ending homelessness, expanding housing rights, decreasing poverty, or related issues;

- Interest in working with variety of stakeholders, including housing advocates, housing and homeless services providers; pro bono law firms, legislators and staff, government agency officials and staff;
- Background and interest in working in nonprofit advocacy organization helpful;
- Program management or program development experience helpful.

### **Salary & Benefits**

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

Benefits: Generous holiday and vacation leave; fully paid health insurance; disability insurance; 403(b) retirement plan; working in a small, collegial team environment; opportunity to have a significant national impact.

### **Application Procedure:**

Send cover letter, resume, and short legal writing sample (e-mail preferred) to:

Vibha Bhatia, Director of Operations  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
1411 K Street, N.W., Suite 1400  
Washington, DC 20005  
Attn: Housing Staff Attorney  
E-mail [vbhatia@nlchp.org](mailto:vbhatia@nlchp.org)  
Fax 202-628-2737  
No phone calls, please.

Application Deadline: Feb 28, 2010

NLCHP is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.