

Host Site: Legal Aid of Nebraska

Topic of Project: Tribal Law; Housing

Location: Omaha, NE

The project will be in-person if public health conditions allow, however some remote work is possible.

Description of Fellow Project:

The Fellow will work with Legal Aid of Nebraska's Native American Program to develop litigation strategies, a community education program, and provide direct legal services to Native Americans residing in communities on or near reservations or in tribal service areas, who have legal issues related to housing. These areas are not only rural, but have a significantly higher poverty population than the general population. The Nebraska Tribes have identified safe and affordable housing as a need in their communities. There is a dearth of rental housing in these areas, and much of what is available is substandard and owned by non-Native landlords who exercise predatory business practices.

In order to help address housing related issues faced by Native Americans residing in rural areas, the Fellow will 1) assist the Native American Program to develop and implement a community education program regarding housing rights including developing materials and conducting outreach and education to partners and Native American community members; 2) assist Native American Program attorneys with housing and related cases, including conducting client interviews, drafting pleadings, conducting legal research and attending court hearings; 3) develop standard pleadings, questionnaires and other materials to incorporate in litigating housing related issues; 4) research impact litigation and advocacy strategies that can be used to achieve and meaningful outcomes; and, 5) assist Native American Program attorneys with other cases.

Applicant Qualifications:

- Ability to travel through Northeast Nebraska and surrounding areas.
- Interest or experience working with Native American communities preferred.
- Interest or experience working with housing related legal issues preferred.