

**Host Site:** Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Domestic Violence

**Location:** Hannibal, MO

This project can be conducted in-person if public health conditions allow. However, all of LSEM has been operating remotely since March 2020 due to COVID-19. Our LSC rural summer fellow worked remotely in 2020. If the safety needs of staff and clients continue to require remote working during this next fellowship term in 2022, we will follow those remote-working procedures.

**Description of Fellow Project:**

The Rural Summer Legal Corps Fellow will help Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc. (LSEM) expand outreach efforts and increase capacity, mainly in serving domestic violence victims living in rural northeastern Missouri. The Fellow will be based in Hannibal—the historic Mississippi River community that inspired several of Mark Twain’s most beloved novels, which covers 14 rural counties. Thirteen of the Hannibal fourteen counties averaged populations of 10,000 or less. All these counties are underserved by attorneys and have significant populations living with low opportunity and low income.

Under the supervision of experienced mentors with over 50 years of combined legal experience in the Hannibal office, the Fellow will learn firsthand about a law office operation by completing a wide variety of substantive tasks including intake screenings, client interviews, drafting pleadings, electronic filing, docket management, court appearances, and closeout assistance, for domestic violence cases primarily. This summer placement will also expose the Fellow to a broad base of legal cases managed by the Hannibal office team, including but not limited to: Landlord/Tenant/Housing disputes, Public Benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability, Family Law, Consumer Issues, and Elder Law. The Fellow will help LSEM fulfill its motto of “Action. Justice. Hope”.

**Applicant Qualifications:**

N/A