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Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Program Attorney Fellow Job Description

Employer: South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Program

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center (SC Appleseed) seeks diverse and dynamic applicants for a two-year, full-time attorney fellow position at SC Appleseed as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Housing Justice Program. The Fellowship ideally begins in August 2022.

SC Appleseed has been selected by Equal Justice Works as an implementing partner of Equal Justice Works' Housing Justice Program. Equal Justice Works is the nation's largest facilitator of opportunities in public interest law. The *Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Program* is a program comprised of Attorney Fellows and Organizer Fellows who, over the course of a two-year fellowship term, will be part of a targeted initiative to address the justice gap in the South Carolina through responsive, context-specific innovations and interventions focused on housing justice. Specifically, Attorney Fellows and Organizer Fellows will serve at one of the participating community-based and/or legal services organizations, and work as a unified front to fight a variety of injustices related to housing instability and involuntary displacement in South Carolina, particularly due to eviction.

An [Equal Justice Works Fellowship](#) is an opportunity to transform your passion for equal justice into a career. As a Housing Justice Program Fellow, you will be part of a prestigious program that, since its inception in 2019 in Virginia, has successfully improved housing stability in served communities by preventing more than 4,000 tenants from being evicted and conducting education and outreach efforts for more than 40,000 people. Most critically, former Fellows of the Housing Justice Program helped generate momentum for tenants to have the right to be represented by counsel in housing cases – a legal right to counsel – something that seemed inconceivable in Virginia just two years ago. Building on the success of Fellows in Virginia, Equal Justice Works is expanding the Housing Justice Program to South Carolina.

As a Fellow, you will develop experience and skills to be a leader in social justice while promoting tenant protections and working directly with households experiencing housing instability. As a cohort, Fellows are expected to actively participate in peer-to-peer learning and required trainings delivered by Equal Justice Works and training partners throughout the year. In addition, Fellows will attend Equal Justice Works' Leadership Development Training in October 2022 and 2023.

The selected Fellow will be employed by SC Appleseed to fulfill all fellowship duties at a local and/or state level. The Fellow will report to the Director for day-to-day supervision, mentoring and performance evaluation.

Organizational Profile:

South Carolina Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for low-income South Carolinians to overcome social, legal, and economic injustice.

SC Appleseed is a forceful and respected advocate for low-income South Carolinians on issues such as health care, immigration, reentry, housing, education, hunger, public benefits, domestic violence, and consumer issues.

SC Appleseed is dedicated to effecting systemic change wherever we can do the most good—in and through the courthouse, legislature, administrative agencies, community, and the media.

For more information: www.scjustice.org

Fellowship responsibilities include

- Providing systemic relief to residents in Richland County through the creation of a Housing Court to provide representation and specialized attention for those under direct threat of eviction
- Identify specific needs and innovative solutions to the eviction crisis in rural areas across South Carolina.
- Work alongside current SC Appleseed staff on the modernization and improvement of a myriad of other housing and eviction related policies at the state level.
- Work alongside SC Appleseed’s many partner organizations in the region and statewide to gain invaluable experience ranging from direct representation to policy advocacy, with direct support from the experienced legal staff on our team.
- Actively contributing to and participating in Housing Justice Program cohort activities (resource exchanges; mandatory webinars and conference calls; and training events, including Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training in fall 2022 and 2023).
- Exercising leadership competencies as an Equal Justice Works Fellow.
- Contributing to required programmatic reporting and overall program evaluation.

Qualifications

Candidates will possess the following qualifications:

- Licensed to practice law in South Carolina.
- Commitment to social justice
- Excellent writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills
- Strong oral and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments
- Experience with delivering training and presentations a plus
- Diverse economic, social, and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred
- Law school clinic, externship, summer, or other relevant practice experience

- Knowledge of housing benefits law and/or experience with housing and benefits agencies.
- An ability to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary setting to facilitate a coordinated community response and provide holistic services to clients

Please note all Fellows are expected to fulfill the complete duration of the Fellowship and will be required to sign a Fellowship Agreement with Equal Justice Works.

Salary and Other Benefits

The Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Attorney Fellow will receive a competitive annual salary and health dental and vision insurance, paid health, annual and holiday leave through SC Appleseed. Interested applicants should contact scaljc@scjustice.org any follow-up questions.

Application Instructions:

Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and list of three references via email to scaljc@scjustice.org or SC Appleseed, P.O. Box 7187, Columbia, SC 29202

SC Appleseed is an equal opportunity employer; people of color and individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. SC Appleseed does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2022, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.