



Host Site: Justice North (Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota)

Topic of Project: Housing Law/Consumer Law

Location: Brainerd, MN

Description of Fellow Project:

Rural Minnesota has struggled with astronomical eviction rates in recent years. These issues create problems for low-income rural families struggling to maintain their housing and remain in their communities. Since 2020, Justice North has partnered with the court system to provide attorneys at every eviction hearing in our service area to provide advice and representation to any tenants attending an eviction hearing. Attorneys help tenants negotiate settlements with their landlords, connect tenants to supportive services, and represent tenants in cases of wrongful eviction, ultimately reducing eviction rates and keeping tenants in their homes.

The Fellow in the Rural Housing Justice Project will represent and advise tenants in rural housing cases across Justice North's largely rural service area, helping families to maintain their housing and stability. The Fellow will also gain experience in other areas of poverty law by helping to staff Justice North's legal advice hotline, which provides immediate advice and assistance to clients who call Justice North seeking assistance on issues in housing, family law, consumer protection, public benefits assistance, and elder law. The Fellow will interview and advise clients in housing-related legal matters, represent clients in housing court, negotiate settlements on behalf of clients, and investigate housing cases with clients.

Additionally, the Fellow will prepare case materials, perform legal research, draft pleadings, motions, and correspondence in housing legal cases; participate in program- and organization-wide meetings, trainings, and development opportunities; and participate in outreach opportunities to engage with the community and potential clients.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be conducted in a hybrid format. Proficiency in a second language is not preferred or required

