

Host Site: Legal Services of Northern Michigan, Inc.

Topic of Project: Family Law

Location: Escanaba, MI (Hybrid)

Description of Fellow Project:

Legal Services of Northern Michigan's (LSNM) Fellowship project will have two components. First, the Fellow will focus on continuing to build a network of family law clinics for self-represented litigants for Upper Peninsula communities such as Houghton, Escanaba, and Sault Ste. Marie. Second, the Fellow will assist LSNM staff attorneys with client intakes, interviews, research, document drafting and hearing preparation. By doing so, the Fellow will gain valuable experience working with and advocating for domestic and/or sexual abuse survivors.

The Fellow will assist with recruitment of volunteer attorneys. The Fellow will also meet with Friends of the Court (statutorily created enforcement and investigative arm of the Circuit Court for custody, parenting time and support issues) and other court personnel, as well as stakeholders and community partners, to determine if there are any common or troublesome administrative or legal issues among self-represented litigants that could be addressed through the clinics. Next, the Fellow will create marketing materials and work to publicize the clinics by meeting with bar leaders, community partners and government agencies. Finally, the Fellow will coordinate any technological needs, help draft a clinic agenda and a script for the clinic host and create and assemble the pleadings packets.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

Proficiency in Spanish is not required but welcome to produce Spanish-language literature.

