

Manhattan Legal Services is seeking a staff attorney to join our HIV/LGBTQ Advocacy Unit. **Project Description**

The HIV/LGBTQ Advocacy Unit provides comprehensive civil legal services to people living with HIV and to low-income LGBTQ New Yorkers. The Unit provides representation in a broad range of civil legal issues.

Manhattan Legal Services is part of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. The Manhattan office is dedicated to providing high-quality legal services in the areas of housing, family law, public benefits, employment, immigration, consumer, education, and disability rights. The Manhattan program has designated units serving particularly vulnerable populations including domestic violence survivors, people living with HIV, and people identifying as LGBTQ. We work in close collaboration with low-income communities in NYC.

The Role:

The staff attorney will be responsible for litigation, advocacy, community outreach, and education throughout Manhattan and sometimes in other boroughs when collaborating with our community partners. The attorney will focus on litigating issues that particularly impact queer and trans-New Yorkers and PLWHA, including discrimination in housing, employment, and in public accommodations. The attorney will also contribute to developing a practice to support TGNC folks who are denied healthcare coverage for gender-affirming care. There is a community outreach component to the work, including doing client intake at regular outreach clinics, sometimes after-hours; establishing relationships with community-based organizations that serve PLWHA and LGBTQ populations, including attending community-centered meetings and events after-hours and on weekends; and representing clients in a number of courts and administrative fora.

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- License to practice law in New York State with a minimum of four (4) years of legal experience;
- Substantial experience working with communities affected by HIV/AIDS and/or the LGBTQ community;
- Competency at working respectfully and effectively with BIPOC transgender, queer, and nonbinary people, those living with disabilities including HIV/AIDS, and those with low or no income;
- Substantial experience with civil litigation where you were either lead counsel or the sole lawyer for your clients;
- Ability to use litigation, advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution to advance clients'™ interests;
- A keen understanding of power and privilege, and a willingness to accept input and feedback, especially from clients;
- Ability to work and finish tasks independently, and independently set and meet internal deadlines;
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, juggle multiple deadlines, keep clear records, communicate proactively, and remain accountable to your commitments;
- Strong legal research, analysis, writing, and public speaking skills;
- Applicants must be able to conduct outreach and education events in low-income neighborhoods
- Demonstrated passion for racial, social, and economic justice.

Preferred Qualifications and Skills:

- Capacity to think creatively and strategically about how to balance litigation goals with individual client needs;
- Experience providing direct legal services from a trauma-informed lens;
- Experience litigating affirmative cases in the New York State Supreme Court, federal court, and/or other types of litigation/advocacy to create systemic change;
- Experience litigating New York City and State Human Rights Laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Experience supporting folks living in the New York City shelter system and litigating issues on behalf of people in the shelter;
- Experience in cases before the Social Security Administration;
- Experience conducting and managing discovery;
- Proficiency with case management software.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, two writing samples, and references by email to jobpostingsmls@lsnyc.org. The e-mail should include "MLS HIV/LGBTQ Staff Attorney" in the subject line. Cover letters must discuss particularized interest in working with the PLWHA and LGBTQ communities. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls.

Salary and benefits are determined by the LSNYC Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Manhattan Legal Services is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and persons over 40 are welcome and encouraged to apply. All employees are strongly encouraged to continue to receive and maintain up-to-date COVID vaccinations unless they are unable to for medical or religious reasons.

Salary Range (Based on years of experience):

- 1-10 years: \$74,881 - \$98,355
- 11-20 years: \$100,605 - \$118,773
- 21+ years: \$124,254 - \$135,637