Brooklyn Legal Services seeks a Director for its Housing Law Unit.

The Housing Law Unit preserves affordable housing for Brooklyn’s low-income communities through representation of low-income tenants in eviction proceedings, collaboration with community based organizations, and affirmative litigation to challenge abusive and discriminatory behaviors that displace low-income families and eliminate affordable housing. The Unit is currently implementing Universal Access to Counsel (UAC) and continuing to expand anti-displacement advocacy, focused on supporting Brooklyn communities facing rapid gentrification. Recent affirmative cases and community projects include lawsuits in Supreme Court to challenge building-wide rent overcharges, group HP proceedings on behalf of numerous tenants to obtain repairs, and an expanded partnership with a community-based organization focused on affordable housing preservation.

Brooklyn Legal Services, part of Legal Services NYC, provides high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Brooklyn’s diverse low-income population. BLS focuses on the problems that have the greatest impact on our clients—preserving affordable and decent housing, maintaining income support, redressing abusive lending and consumer practices, promoting family stability and mitigating the effects of domestic violence, and advocating for the disabled.

The Director will be responsible for working with staff to develop a strategic vision for the Unit’s work and devising creative, high impact advocacy strategies to preserve affordable housing and prevent displacement. The Director will lead the UAC implementation at BLS, collaborate with the Director of BLS Tenant Rights Coalition and other leadership to set the vision for the practice, and work with the Unit’s Deputy Directors to supervise the Unit’s 40 attorneys and paralegals on a range of litigation including individual and group representation in Housing Court, administrative proceedings, and affirmative litigation in State and Federal Court. The Director will be responsible for supervising and supporting the professional development of the Unit’s Deputy Directors. The Director will also be responsible for strengthening relationships with community partners and elected officials, addressing systemic housing issues that perpetuate poverty, and handling administrative and grant responsibilities.

In addition to the qualifications below, the ideal candidate will be a highly motivated individual with a demonstrated ability to jump-start litigation or community-based campaigns and to collaborate with other staff to see such initiatives through to fruition. A successful candidate will also have a demonstrated fluency with systems of oppression and the many ways in which they adversely affect both our clients and our staff. The Director will be expected to work collaboratively with and provide leadership for LSNYC’s city-wide housing practice.

Experience and Qualifications

We seek an attorney admitted to the New York State Bar with:

- A demonstrated passion for social justice and a commitment to working with low-income communities and communities of color to advance equity;
- Excellent analytical, written, and communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills and the ability to provide supportive and consistent supervision to attorneys, paralegals, and support staff in a fast paced and high-volume practice;
- Minimum of 5 years of litigation experience;
- Demonstrated expertise in housing law and policy and experience with complex litigation; and,
- Background in organizing or strong ties to Brooklyn’s low-income communities (preferred).

How to Apply

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to bkhiring@sbls.org. Please write Housing Director in the subject line of the email.

For more information, please contact Meghan Faux, Project Director, at mfaux@sbls.org or (718) 246-3276.

Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits are generous.

Legal Services NYC is an equal opportunity employer and an organization committed to race, gender and economic justice in our work and within our workplace. Staff are members of the LSSA/NOLSW UAW Local 2320. We welcome and encourage applications from candidates of color, women, people with disabilities, people over the age of 40, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.