LSNYC seeks a Directing Attorney for Housing to lead and manage LSNYC’s housing practice, which has grown rapidly with NYC’s Right to Counsel law and Tenant Rights Campaign work.

Our Organization

Legal Services NYC fights poverty and seeks racial, social and economic justice for low income New Yorkers. For almost 50 years, we have challenged systemic injustices that keep people in poverty and provided legal services that help our clients meet basic needs for housing, income and economic security, family and immigration stability, education, and health care. LSNYC is the largest civil legal services provider in the country; our staff of almost 600 people in neighborhood-based offices and outreach sites across all five boroughs helps over 100,000 New Yorkers annually. We partner with scores of community-based and client-run organizations, elected officials, law schools, public agencies, pro bono lawyers and the courts to maximize our effectiveness. Our work fights discrimination and helps to achieve equity for low income New Yorkers.

The Opportunity

LSNYC seeks a Directing Attorney for Housing to lead and manage LSNYC’s housing practice, which has grown rapidly with NYC’s Right to Counsel law and Tenant Rights Campaign work. Our housing staff of more than 200 people is based in neighborhood-based offices and outreach sites across all five boroughs in Brooklyn Legal Services, Bronx Legal Services, Manhattan Legal Services, Queens Legal Services and Staten Island Legal Services. To strengthen our practice and ensure that it remains mission-driven, the Directing Attorney is charged with fostering our vision for the work in the housing practice: litigation and advocacy that works in partnership with tenants and community-based organizations to fight mass displacement and secure the right to housing for low-income people and communities in NYC. The Directing Attorney is responsible for coordinating our practice citywide, and having a high-level understanding of our housing staffing, budgets, practice and current and anticipated issues. The Directing Attorney is charged with overseeing the tens of millions of dollars in contract funds that LSNYC now receives for housing litigation and advocacy. The Directing Attorney will work in close partnership with our citywide Director of Housing Litigation and Advocacy. Finally, the Directing Attorney is charged with being a primary spokesperson on our housing practice, including actively fostering communication internally and enhancing LSNYC’s reputation and power for clients externally.

Job Responsibilities

The Directing Attorney’s duties include:

- Developing and communicating LSNYC’s vision of housing justice and housing practice
- Promoting a cohesive, strategic and innovative citywide practice
- Managing LSNYC’s citywide housing contracts, in conjunction with our borough-based housing supervisors and contract management staff, and serving as LSNYC’s primary point of contact with HRA
- Coordinating citywide housing hiring
- Ensuring housing training for LSNYC’s staff
- Working in close partnership with LSNYC’s Director of Housing Litigation and Advocacy to support complex and systemic housing litigation and advocacy
- Providing expertise to LSNYC advocates on housing law and practice
- Serving as a primary spokesperson on our housing practice
- Fostering relationships with community partners
- Working closely with LSNYC’s Pro Bono Director to support LSNYC’s Pro Bono Housing projects
- Actively advancing LSNYC’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work

The Directing Attorney is part of the Legal Support Unit (LSU) and reports to LSNYC’s Deputy Director.

Qualifications

We seek a candidate with the following:

- Clear and compelling vision of how LSNYC’s housing practice can advance housing justice and the rights of low-income people and communities
- Excellent leadership skills
- Experience in coordinating systems development and implementation, hiring, training, stakeholder relationships and other core practice management functions
- Recognized expertise in housing law and at least 8 years of experience in housing practice, including individual cases and systemic advocacy
- Excellent writing and oral presentation skills
- Demonstrated skills in collaboration and consensus building
- Experience in partnering with community-based advocates and organizations
Experience in partnering with funders and managing funding contracts
- Demonstrated commitment to working for racial, social and economic justice
- Experience with a unionized workforce and commitment to the importance of labor-management work relationships
- Dedication to promoting a diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace and proven effectiveness at promoting and modeling leadership, accountability and the importance of DEIB

Health Recommendation

All employees are strongly encouraged to continue to receive and maintain up-to-date Covid-19 vaccinations unless they are unable to for medical or religious reasons.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should e-mail a cover letter and resume to: Jobpostings@ls-nyc.org

Please type on Subject line: Directing Attorney – Housing

LSNYC is an equal opportunity employer. People of color; women; people with disabilities; people over age 40; and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Bar Association and other organizations: LSNYC welcomes your recommendations for qualified candidates, and asks that you encourage such candidates to apply.