We are seeking an experienced staff attorney to join our LGBTQ+ Advocacy Project.

About Us

Bronx Legal Services, the largest provider of free civil legal services in the borough, is part of Legal Services NYC’s network of local programs throughout New York City. Our mission is to advance society’s promise to its most vulnerable members: that they are entitled to equal access to our legal system. For over 50 years, we have provided civil legal services that help our clients meet their essential needs and have challenged the systemic injustices that keep them poor.

The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Project

The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Project is a general practice unit designed to provide comprehensive legal services in a single location for the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV/AIDS. The Project provides representation for a broad range of civil legal needs including community and economic development; public assistance, social security, and other benefits; healthcare; immigration; elder law; housing preservation; and, consumer law. The Project also engages in affirmative litigation challenging discrimination and other systemic abuses faced by LGBTQ+ and HIV-affected communities. The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Project is part of our Public Benefits & LGBTQ+ Advocacy Units.

The Opportunity

We are seeking an experienced attorney to join our LGBTQ+ Advocacy Project. The attorney in this position will be a generalist who will be expected to learn, know, and understand many different areas of civil law pertinent to low-income LGBTQ+ communities and people living with HIV.

Among other responsibilities, the project attorney will:

- provide advice and direct representation across different areas of civil legal services to LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV;
- identify systemic issues and barriers our clients face and lead efforts to raze those obstacles in the pursuit of equal access to justice, including through affirmative litigation and policy work;
- conduct intake, outreach, and community education at off-site locations, along with creating relevant materials;
- create and conduct internal trainings on areas relevant to LGBTQ+ clients, identities, experiences, and law;
- employ a client-centered approach to advocacy that centers our clients’ voices in our work; and,
- champion diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The project attorney is likely to concentrate on one or more areas of law that are particularly responsive to the needs of LGBTQ+ communities and people living with HIV such as antidiscrimination (e.g., employment, public accommodations), community development (e.g., incorporating non-profits, assisting LGBTQ+ small businesses), supportive housing issues, family/domestic violence, and/or immigration.

We are looking for candidates who want to work in a fast-paced environment and will employ creative strategies and collaborations in the pursuit of justice.

Occasional evening and weekend outreach will be necessary. The staff attorney will be expected to conduct regular off-site intake, education, and outreach. The staff attorney will need to conduct client home visits.

When conducting off-site intake and outreach, the attorney will be expected to enter and upload relevant data and documents into our case management system and complete conflict checks, whenever possible.

Experiences and Qualifications:

Qualifications include:

- Admission to New York State Bar;
- At least three years of experience in an area of public interest civil law, including a minimum of one year’s experience in public benefits;
- A demonstrated passion for social justice and a commitment to working with low-income communities and communities of color to advance equity;
- A demonstrated understanding of, commitment to, and experience working with LGBTQ+ communities and individuals and people living with HIV;
- Prior experience representing litigants at administrative hearings and in City, State, or Federal Courts required;
- Fluency or proficiency in Spanish or another non-English language commonly spoken by Bronx residents is strongly preferred;
- Ability to speak with people of diverse backgrounds and build trust, be able to treat people with respect, and identify clients’ needs quickly and accurately;
An understanding of the dynamics of intimate partner/domestic violence and trafficking, as well as the effects abuse, crime, and trauma, have on individuals and communities;
Commitment to furthering the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging mission of the organization;
Prior experience conducting trainings or community education required;
Aptitude for working with survivors of crime, noncitizens, older persons, and/or people with disabilities;
Excellent writing skills;
Excellent organizational skills and strong facility with numbers; and
Experience working with low-income people.

Preference will be given to candidates with significant prior experience in public benefits, health, immigration, anti-discrimination, community/economic development, and/or family/domestic violence law.

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

To apply for the position, send a cover letter, résumé, names of three references, and two recent writing samples via e-mail to: Bronx-BenefitsHiring@lsnyc.org

The e-mail should include "Bronx LGBTQ+ Attorney Position" in the subject line.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls.

Bronx Legal Services is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and people over age 40 are all welcome and encouraged to apply.

SALARY RANGE: $73,593-$133,304