Staten Island Legal Services (across the street from the ferry), is seeking an attorney to direct its Government Benefits & Disability Advocacy Project.

About the Organization:

Staten Island Legal Services (SILS) is part of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. We provide high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Staten Islandâ€™s diverse low-income populations. We focus on the problems that have the greatest impact on our clients â€“ preserving affordable and decent housing, representing survivors of domestic violence, obtaining immigration status and preventing deportations, advocating for the LGBTQ community, preventing foreclosures, advocating for students with educational needs and obtaining benefits. As a social justice organization, all employees are expected to learn about, seek to understand and work to realize our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging goals. We work in partnership with community-based organizations in the communities we serve in order to address the root causes of poverty and seek racial, social, and economic justice.

Role & Responsibilities:

The Director will advocate to retain, obtain, or increase critical public benefits, including cash public assistance, SNAP/Food Stamps, WIC, housing subsidies (such as FHEPS), and Unemployment Insurance/Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability (UI/SSI/SSD). They will work on health law issues, helping clients obtain or retain public health insurance and services such as Medicare, Medicaid, and long-term care. As part of LSNYCâ€™s Disability Advocacy Project, they will represent low-income clients living with physical and/or mental health disabilities in their federal disability claims at the administrative level and the Federal Court level. Responsibilities include interviewing clients, providing legal advice and counseling, case investigation, drafting legal documents, advising clients on benefits eligibility and services as well as a direct representation of clients in administrative proceedings, Civil Court, state Supreme Court, federal court, and partnering with community groups to engage in outreach, education, and actions for change. In addition, the Director will be responsible for trainings, public policy advocacy, outreach to community-based organizations including maintaining and further developing partnerships, connecting with elected officials, and identifying and working to change systemic issues which adversely impact our clients.

Experience and Qualifications:

- Applicants must have a J.D. from an accredited law school and be admitted to practice in New York;
- Minimum of 3 years of experience with Social Security disability work, including Social Security disability applications, appeals to the ALJ and Appeals Councils, and/or litigation in Federal Court;
- Experience in public benefits law is required;
- Experience litigating affirmative cases in New York State Supreme Court, federal court, and/or other types of litigation/advocacy to create systemic change;
- Demonstrated commitment to and experience working with individuals living with physical and/or mental health disabilities;
- Demonstrated commitment to and experience working with and providing culturally sensitive services to vulnerable populations;
- Strong interpersonal, teaching/training, and organizational skills;
- Experience working with diverse low-income communities and familiarity with structural and systemic racism and their intersection with poverty.
- Excellent leadership, analytical, oral, and written communication skills;
- Strong time management and organizational skills.

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 individuals should e-mail a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to silshiring@lsnyc.org. Please write â€œSILS GOVERNMENT BENEFITS & DAP DIRECTORâ€ in the subject line.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Hybrid in-person and remote work policy and excellent benefits package.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. Please, no phone calls.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Additional information about the practice may be found on our website, www.legalservicesnyc.org. Legal Services NYC is an equal opportunity employer.
women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and people over the age of 40 are strongly encouraged to apply.

Salary Range (Based on years' experience): $128,000 - $192,000