Staten Island Legal Services (across the street from the ferry), the Staten Island office of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), is seeking an attorney to direct its Homeowner Defense Project.

Our Organization:

Staten Island Legal Services (SILS), part of Legal Services NYC, fights poverty and seeks racial, social, and economic justice for low-income New Yorkers. SILS provides high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Staten Island’s diverse low-income populations. SILS focuses on the problems that have the greatest impact on our clients’ preserving affordable and decent housing, representing survivors of domestic violence, obtaining immigration status and preventing deportations, advocating for the LGBTQ community, preventing foreclosures, and advocating for students with educational needs. In addition to being the largest provider of civil legal services in the country, LSNYC provides numerous opportunities for growth and professional development. Our Justice Learning Center provides opportunities to earn free CLEs and gain experience as a trainer. LSNYC prides itself on its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) efforts. As a social justice organization, we are committed to fighting for a workplace that is as diverse, equitable, and inclusive as possible for everyone. Our DEIB committee and numerous affinity groups work to foster collegial relationships among staff and allow staff to explore and advocate for racial justice and anti-oppression growth within our organization and through our legal work. All employees are expected to learn about, seek to understand, and work to realize our DEIB goals.

SILS launched its Homeowner Defense Project (HDP) in 2006 to stem the foreclosure crisis sparked by predatory and discriminatory mortgage lending. SILS is the only agency located in Staten Island that provides comprehensive free legal representation and advocacy to low- and middle-income homeowners victimized by predatory lending, abusive loan servicing practices, other bank misconduct, or in distress resulting from tax/water/homeowner association/condo liens. Through a combination of federal and state litigation, policy advocacy, negotiation, and community education, SILS’ HDP is one of the most effective programs in the state, achieving affordable, long-term homeownership for its clients, and actively fighting for fair lending and financial justice.

Role & Responsibilities:

SILS seeks a Director for its Homeowner Defense Project, which consists of two attorneys, a law graduate, and two paralegals. The ideal candidate will be an energetic, committed, and compassionate leader, who will promote high-quality legal work in the areas of foreclosure prevention and bank misconduct. The Director will guide HDP in developing its practice in response to community needs, including expanding our bankruptcy practice and Surrogate’s Court practice and fostering affirmative litigation to vindicate our client’s rights and pursue justice for low-income Staten Islanders.

The Director’s responsibilities include supporting and supervising staff in the areas described above, developing and implementing systemic advocacy and policy goals, and regularly engaging with Staten Island’s judges, politicians, service providers, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. The Director’s duties also include grant writing, grant reporting, and administration, as well as ensuring compliance with organization policies and regulations. The Director will join the leadership at SILS and be expected to actively support and participate in organization-wide initiatives, including DEIB. The Director will supervise the unit and have an active practice.

Experience & Qualifications:

- Applicants must have a J.D. from an accredited law school and be admitted to practice in New York;
- Minimum of five years of advocacy and litigation experience in areas such as foreclosure prevention, consumer justice, fair housing, civil rights, economic justice, and/or bankruptcy;
- Knowledge of and passion for foreclosure prevention and lien/mortgage issues;
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and working with low-income clients and communities of color;
- Experience with supervising legal work and working with large and diverse teams;
- Excellent writing, communication, litigation, advocacy, multi-tasking, and organizational skills;
- Experience with community engagement and education and ability to effectively lead outreach efforts;
- Experience working with diverse low-income communities and familiarity with structural and systemic racism and their intersection with poverty;
- Ability to identify challenges and trends that could be addressed by strategic action or systemic advocacy; and
- Ability to build trust with people of diverse backgrounds, treat people with respect and accurately identify staff’s needs.

Health Recommendation

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.

How to Apply
Interested individuals should e-mail a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to silshiring@lsnyc.org. Please write “SILS HDP DIRECTOR” 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. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and people over the age of 40 are strongly encouraged to apply.

Salary Range: $128,000 - $192,000 (based on years of experience)