Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS) seeks a staff attorney for the Mid-Atlantic Pension Counseling Project (MAPCP).

Our Organization:

BLS, 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: preventing evictions, fighting wage theft and employment discrimination, securing access to tax benefits and refunds, preserving affordable housing, improving access to education, accessing and maintaining pension benefits, addressing immigrants' rights, accessing essential public benefits, redressing abusive lending and consumer practices, promoting family stability and mitigating the effects of domestic violence, and advocating for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, people with disabilities, elders, and veterans.

MAPCP provides vital advocacy services to workers, retirees, and their family members seeking access to pension benefits. Founded in 2003, MAPCP helps clients track down pension information, determine whether they are entitled to benefits, and ensure that they receive the amount to which they are entitled. We advocate for workers and their families whose benefits have been miscalculated or unfairly denied, and ensure that domestic violence survivors and other low-income clients obtain their fair share of retirement benefits in divorce. MAPCP is one of only six Pension Counseling and Information Projects in the nation providing legal assistance on pension issues free of charge. MAPCP assists clients throughout New York and New Jersey as well as clients whose employer or pension plan is located in the region. We advise and represent clients facing legal issues concerning all types of retirement income plans offered by private and government employers.

MAPCP is part of BLS' Workers' Rights and Benefits Unit (WRBU), which brings together diverse projects focused on economic justice advocacy for workers and their communities. The WRBU helps low-income clients gain access to and retain jobs and benefits through advocacy centered on employment, income tax, pension benefits, unemployment benefits, and education law. The unit's structure encourages collaboration among WRBU advocates across practice area lines as appropriate to address client and community needs.

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 at all levels 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.

Role & Responsibilities:

The staff attorney will provide counsel and representation to individual clients on a broad array of public and private pension issues. While most cases will involve administrative advocacy, including formal and informal hearings and appeals, the position includes litigation in state and federal court to enforce clients' rights under ERISA and state law. Other responsibilities may include drafting domestic relations orders and related advocacy on behalf of domestic violence survivors and other low-income clients, as well as community education and outreach. The position offers unique opportunities to engage in policy advocacy to improve access to essential pension benefits for low-income and elderly clients and address systemic issues in the field.

Experience & Qualifications:

We seek an attorney admitted to the New York and/or New Jersey State Bar with:

- A demonstrated passion for social, racial, and economic justice and a commitment to working with low-income communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color to advance equity;
- Litigation experience;
- ERISA experience (preferred);
- Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills;
- Ability to work with clients in crisis;
- Strong organizational skills and ability to handle diverse, fast-paced, and highvolume caseloads; and
- Fluency or strong proficiency in a second language (preferred).

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

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to bkhiring@lsnyc.org. Please write “Pension Attorney” in the subject line of the email. Please, no telephone calls.
Salary and benefits are determined by the LSNYC Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Legal Services NYC is an equal-opportunity employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, people over 40, and LGBTQ+ people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Salary Range (Based on years' experience):

- 1-10 years: $73,593 - $96,664
- 11-20 years: $98,875 - $116,730
- 21+ years: $122,117 - $133,304