



LOUISIANA FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

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Eviction Defense Project Attorney

The Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC) seeks an attorney to lead LaFHAC's Eviction Defense Project. LaFHAC is a non-profit organization that seeks to eradicate housing discrimination, an illegal and divisive force that perpetuates poverty and segregation, and limits opportunity. LaFHAC was established in 1995 and is the only full-service fair housing advocacy organization in Louisiana. LaFHAC addresses housing discrimination by 1) educating housing consumers and providers about their rights and responsibilities to proactively prevent violations of the Fair Housing Act; 2) investigating fair housing violations; 3) challenging discriminatory housing practices and policies through litigation; 4) advocating for new policies that promote equitable housing; and 5) counseling homeowners facing foreclosure.

Project Description:

The Eviction Defense Project Attorney will join LaFHAC's staff from their hiring date through **October 2021**, with the possibility of an additional year-long extension as need requires and funding allows. The Project attorney will lead LaFHAC's eviction defense project, with an emphasis on serving clients that fall outside of legal aid's service boundaries. The Project attorney's work will be focused solely on eviction defense in Orleans Parish/City of New Orleans, and Jefferson Parish, as a response to the eviction crisis posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The attorney will work closely with the local LSC-funded legal aid organization, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, to identify the populations that are most likely to be underserved, as well as to provide and be a source for referrals. The Project attorney will appear regularly in Orleans Parish Civil District Court, and in Jefferson Parish courts, to defend tenants facing eviction. Additionally, the attorney will table 1-2 times a week in the Orleans and Jefferson Parish courts to assist tenants who appear for their eviction hearings without having already secured representation.



Additionally, the Project attorney will be responsible for serving as LaFHAC's liaison to locally-based coalitions that are working to protect tenants from eviction, as well as strategizing about how to ensure that court conditions are safe. The Project attorney will also conduct outreach and share information with community members as needed, in addition to planning and identifying outreach events and opportunities. The Project attorney, in coordination with other legal services providers, will make policy recommendations to affinity groups and legislators on systemic changes to improve outcomes for tenants.

Until conditions are safe, LaFHAC' staff continues to work remotely, and as it relates to case work up or other office tasks, the eviction defense attorney will work remotely as well. However, please note that while some hearings may take place virtually, the attorney will be required to make **in-person court appearances** when necessary.

Qualifications:

LaFHAC seeks an attorney with experience in housing and ideally eviction defense. The ideal candidate should have a passion for civil rights advocacy. **Current ability to practice law in Louisiana is required.** Given the immediate need, we are unable to accept unlicensed or license-pending applicants.

LaFHAC is an equal opportunity employer. LaFHAC values diversity and inclusion in the workplace because it enhances the work we do, reflects the communities we serve, and embodies the values we further and defend. Candidates of all backgrounds are welcome.

Compensation:

The salary is \$65,000. LaFHAC's benefits include 100% employer-paid medical insurance with available dental and vision coverage; flex spending account; 401(k) with employer-matched contributions; paid vacation, and paid parental leave.

How to Apply: The position is open until filled. Please email a resume and cover letter explaining your interest in the position to resumes@lafairhousing.org with the subject line "Eviction Defense Project Attorney."