



**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**STAFF ATTORNEY – EVICTION DEFENSE AND TENANT ORGANIZING**

**Position Details:**

Connecticut Fair Housing Center seeks an attorney with experience defending tenants in summary process cases who is interested in working with tenants as they organize to prevent displacement. Even before COVID-19, nearly 20,000 evictions a year were filed in Connecticut, a substantial majority of which were for non-payment of rent. This year, because of a global pandemic, we will likely see eviction numbers twice or three times as high. The Center seeks an individual with a commitment to civil rights work relating to race and housing justice. This will include assisting tenants who are organizing to prevent displacement as well representing tenants denied access to the State’s rental relief program and/or have been served with summary process complaints.

**Specific Responsibilities Include:**

- Build internal working group to guide tenant organizing and mass eviction defense work;
- Work with the organizer assigned to the project to develop a workplan and goals to be accomplished;
- Support efforts by tenants to organize against the impending eviction crisis and the government’s inadequate response;
- Create a multilingual eviction defense curriculum and conduct workshops for tenants representing themselves in summary process and for formal/informal tenant organizations on the eviction process and their rights, individually and collectively;
- Work with tenant groups and coalitions to determine how to fight evictions both through the courts and through organized efforts that do not rely on the court system;
- Provide legal support to advance the goals of tenant organizing, such as assisting with planning demonstrations, advising, and selectively representing tenants in eviction cases, and filing lawsuits or administrative complaints;
- Respond to eviction related intakes;
- Currently CFHC staff is working remotely with laptops and other equipment supplied by the organization. We expect all staff to work in the office when the current public health crisis ends.

**Qualifications:**

- J.D. and Connecticut bar membership, ability to waive in, or willingness to take the next available Connecticut Bar examination;
- At least one year’s litigation experience;

- Trial experience or experience with evidentiary hearings preferred;
- Commitment to civil rights;
- Ability to collaborate well with others;
- Desire to have a legal career at a non-profit organization;
- Excellent writing and oral advocacy skills;
- Spanish language ability a plus.

**Salary:** \$60,000 - \$78,000 depending on experience for a 35-hour work week. The benefits package includes health care, retirement, life insurance, flexible scheduling, and substantial paid leave.

**Send resume and cover letter to:** Letty Ortiz, Administrative Assistant at [letty@ctfairhousing.org](mailto:letty@ctfairhousing.org). Please include the names and addresses of three people who can act as references. We will not contact any references without speaking to you first. Please do not call.

**Application Deadline:** August 20, 2020

**About Connecticut Fair Housing Center**—Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a statewide nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring that all people, and principally those with scarce financial resources, have equal access to housing opportunities in Connecticut, free from discrimination. To accomplish our mission, the Center provides legal services to the victims of housing discrimination and those at risk of home foreclosure; conducts education, training, and outreach on fair housing laws; works with state and local governments to ensure compliance with the fair housing laws; and advocates for policies that will improve access to housing. [www.ctfairhousing.org](http://www.ctfairhousing.org)

Connecticut Fair Housing Center is an equal opportunity employer.