



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT STAFF ATTORNEY – TENANTS’ RIGHTS AND FAIR HOUSING

Connecticut Fair Housing Center seeks an attorney to advance its work addressing housing discrimination in the rental market and providing legal support for tenants organizing for housing justice. In collaboration with community-based organizations and Center staff, the attorney will work to remove barriers to healthy, affordable, and stable housing faced by tenants. To achieve this goal, the attorney may use a broad range of tools including public education, policy advocacy, and strategic litigation. The ideal candidate will be a creative and strategic thinker who recognizes both the law’s power and its limits. They will also be committed to a community lawyering approach that centers those who have been most impacted by housing injustice.

Responsibilities:

- Provide legal research, policy analysis, and strategic input to tenants and community groups engaged in tenant organizing and tenants’ rights-related campaigns;
- Create and conduct trainings with and for partner organizations, tenant groups, organizers, and other community members on the eviction process, housing code enforcement, emergency rental assistance, and other tenants’ rights topics;
- Develop fact sheets, know-your-rights materials, reports, and other community legal education tools for audiences of varied backgrounds;
- Engage in administrative and legislative advocacy in an inclusive and collaborative manner with and on behalf of the Center’s community partners;
- Identify recurring legal issues facing tenants, and low-income tenants of color in particular, and work collaboratively to develop strategies to address them;
- Strategically represent or advise individual tenants or groups of tenants on housing-related legal matters, including both affirmative matters (e.g., housing conditions, fair rent, housing discrimination) and eviction defense matters before administrative agencies, trial courts, and appellate courts;
- Participate in shaping the Center’s tenants’ rights advocacy strategies and goals;

Qualifications and Desired Experience:

- J.D. and Connecticut bar membership, ability to waive in/apply by UBE score transfer, or willingness to take the next available Connecticut Bar examination;
- Experience working with low-income tenants, tenant groups, community-based organizations, organizers, and/or coalitions;

- Experience working on policy advocacy campaigns in collaborative settings;
- Experience supporting community capacity-building and empowerment;
- Familiarity with tenant organizing and the local housing justice landscape;
- Substantive knowledge of housing law and policy including landlord-tenant laws, fair housing laws, eviction defense, housing code enforcement, and/or federal emergency rental assistance preferred;
- Excellent legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills;
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with non-lawyers on grassroots campaigns;
- Demonstrated ability to think and plan strategically;
- Ability to communicate legal concepts in a manner that is accessible to non-lawyers;
- Ability to collaborate well with others;
- Commitment to civil rights and racial justice;
- A passion for using the law to build the power of social movements;
- Desire to have a legal career at a non-profit organization;
- Spanish language ability a plus.

Salary: \$72,000 + 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. 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: September 1, 2021

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

Connecticut Fair Housing Center is an equal opportunity employer.