

Eviction Defense Legal Fellowship

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC) seeks to ensure equal access to housing for all people through education, counseling, investigation, and enforcement. EHOC is the only private, not-for-profit fair housing enforcement agency working to end illegal housing discrimination in the metropolitan St. Louis area.

EHOC is currently seeking attorneys for an Eviction Defense Legal Fellowship to provide direct legal representation to people facing eviction and housing instability because of the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the continued spread of the virus and the lasting health and economic impacts of the pandemic, courts in Missouri are operating and eviction moratoriums are being lifted. An imminent increase in eviction filings is expected, and these evictions will disproportionately affect low-income communities of color in the region. The Fellow will help people navigate the legal process as well as help tenants access resources that help them stay housed and avoid the long-term effects of having an eviction filing on their record.

Primary Responsibilities will include:

- Carrying a personal caseload representing tenants in eviction-related matters in state court and administrative proceedings in St. Louis County and St. Louis City, Missouri;
- Evaluating potential cases to determine acceptance and extent of representation;
- Conducting client interviews, investigation, and fact gathering;
- Engaging in a full range of eviction litigation activities, including drafting pleadings, conducting depositions, negotiating with opposing parties, and representing tenants in court;
- Maintaining current knowledge on developments in COVID-related court programs and procedures;
- Working in collaboration with community organizations that provide rental assistance and other supportive services; and
- Keeping accurate records of case activities and providing necessary information to meet grant and other reporting requirements.

Qualifications:

- JD admitted to practice in Missouri. Recent graduates with Rule 13 Certifications direct client representation experience will be considered.
- Familiarity with Missouri landlord/tenant law and court procedures;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Ability to spot legal issues in eviction cases and comfort with providing real-time counsel & advice;
- Experience working independently with minimal supervision;
- Flexibility to work remotely with staff and clients as well as make in-person appearances as required by the court;
- Excellent negotiation and organizational skills;
- Ability to relate well and work with low-income clients and collaborate with community stakeholders;
- Capacity to work in a high-volume environment and a changing court and policy landscape.

The fellowship will pay \$5,000 per month, with an initial contract ending June 30, 2021. This is an independent contractor 1099 position. The fellowship is fully funded from a grant.

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and résumé to Kalila Jackson, Senior Staff Attorney, at applications@ehoc-stl.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

EHOC is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EEO). We prioritize equity and inclusion in our organizational culture and hiring. We encourage all applicants regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, parental status, marital status, formerly incarcerated individuals or on any other identity factor to apply.