COVID-19 EVICTION DEFENSE (CED) PILOT – CED FELLOW/CED ATTORNEY (MULTIPLE) JOB POSTING

Position Type
Full-time, exempt, temporary. LCBH has received one-time funding to provide legal representation to Chicago renters facing eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fellowships start in August and, unless additional funding is made available, will end on December 31, 2020. Interested candidates are strongly encouraged to submit their application materials promptly, as we anticipate the hiring process for these positions will move quickly.

About LCBH
Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing’s mission is to provide free legal and supportive services to improve housing stability for lower income renters while advocating for the rights of all renters until everyone in Chicago has a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home. For over 40 years LCBH has exclusively served Chicago renters living in private (non-subsidized) rental housing who are facing unjust evictions or living in substandard housing. Using a fundamentally different approach to prevent homelessness, LCBH intervenes before renters are forced out of their homes and holistically addresses the short-term housing crisis and its underlying causes by combining legal aid with social services and public policy initiatives.

Job Description
While evictions are temporarily limited by local, state, and federal moratoria, starting in August we anticipate an avalanche of evictions will hit Chicago renters whose low-paying jobs were cut during the pandemic. COVID-19 Eviction Defense (CED) Pilot CED Fellows/Attorneys will represent renters in eviction court to negotiate settlements, conduct evidentiary hearings, argue a variety of motions, and conduct both bench and jury trials. CED Fellows/Attorneys will prevent Chicago renters from having to move as a result of COVID-19 by providing legal representation in eviction court and leveraging access to emergency rental assistance, LCBH’s supportive services, and other external resources.

Remote Work During COVID-19 Pandemic
LCBH offices are currently closed and staff are working remotely in order to maintain social distancing during the pandemic. LCBH has taken steps to adapt its service delivery model, including using our triage app Rentervention.com to replace in-person client intake. We continue to monitor court administrative orders to determine when staff may have to return to court in-person to represent clients. Currently the court is generally only scheduling remote Zoom hearings.
Duties include
• Provide legal advice and brief services to renters
• Coordinate with rental assistance programs, supportive services, mediation, and other programs to connect renters with the resources necessary to preserve their housing
• Defend renters in eviction court in both bench and jury trials
• Engage in all aspects of litigation: intake interviews; charting case strategy; drafting pleadings, motions, and discovery; interviewing and preparing witnesses; and conducting discovery and investigation

Qualifications include
• A license to practice law in Illinois, or confirmed eligibility to be admitted immediately by waiver, or to sit for the next bar exam
• Must be able to work remotely with a stable internet connection
• Affinity for legal aid work and commitment to racial justice
• Ideal candidate will have participated in a law school clinic or trial advocacy class, and will have received high marks in their evidence class
• Demonstrated housing experience a plus
• Spanish-speaking is a plus

Compensation and Benefits
Compensation is based on a public interest salary scale and is commensurate with experience. LCBH offers a benefits package that includes medical, dental/vision, 401k retirement plan, and other pre-tax benefits.

Application Process
To apply please send your resume and a thoughtful cover letter to jobs@lcbh.org. Please include “CED Attorney” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Equal Opportunity Employer
We strongly encourage applications from people of color, immigrants, women, older people, persons living with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, people with lived experience of poverty and/or racism, and people from underrepresented and historically marginalized groups.