

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Position Description Staff Attorney or Senior Staff Attorney Los Angeles, CA Office

Justice in Aging seeks an attorney with five to ten years of experience to join our Los Angeles office. The successful candidate will help expand on our work to improve access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) as a way to decrease homelessness for seniors and people with disabilities in California. The new attorney will work with our existing health and economic security teams to develop and implement this project. The project will combine training, outreach, organizing, administrative and legislative advocacy, and strategic litigation to achieve tangible improvements in the lives of thousands of poor seniors in California. Today, the work to protect programs supporting low-income older adults is more important than ever. This project offers the opportunity to join in to defend and expand social safety net programs that are currently under threat.

Since 1972, Justice in Aging has used the power of law and our expertise in government safety net programs like Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid and IHSS to fight senior poverty. We have a rich tradition of successful, high-impact, strategic advocacy on behalf of the more than 6 million seniors living in poverty in America. This project will allow us to leverage that tradition to improve the lives of low-income older adults living in California, while informing and influencing our national advocacy efforts to preserve and protect the safety net programs low income seniors depend on.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Candidate review will begin on December 5.

Responsibilities

- Develop and implement, with input and assistance from other Justice in Aging team members, work plans for the project that include training, outreach, organizing, and advocacy.
- Work with our economic security team to plan, develop and deliver trainings on SSI/SSP to local advocates.
- Develop written publications, both for education and advocacy purposes about SSI/SSP, homelessness among seniors, and legal issues facing older adults as needed.
- Respond to training and technical assistance requests from local advocates on SSI/SSP.
- Investigate problems experienced by individuals needing SSI/SSP, including homeless or near-homeless older adults, and develop advocacy approaches to fix those problems.
- Lead and/or participate in all aspects of litigation, administrative advocacy and legislative advocacy to improve SSI/SSP.
- Recruit and organize other advocates and stakeholders to participate in the project's advocacy efforts.
- Work with other Justice in Aging team members to advance other Justice in Aging policy objectives.
- As needed, supervise other attorneys, pro bono attorneys, fellows and law clerks.
- Travel may be required.

WASHINGTON

1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
202-289-6976

LOS ANGELES

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 718
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-639-0930

OAKLAND

1330 Broadway, Suite 525
Oakland, CA 94612
510-663-1055

Requirements

- A J.D.
- Effective speaking, presentation, and written communication skills.
- Familiarity with SSI.
- Careful and detail oriented with an ability to master complex administrative legal schemes at a high level.
- Collegial, collaborative approach.
- Ability to provide technical assistance and legal advice to advocates with competence and generosity of spirit.
- Leadership ability, including taking initiative with skill and confidence; constructing an advocacy plan; and building consensus to achieve goals.
- Connections to and experience working with diverse populations, including communities of color.
- Passion for economic justice, independent living principles and making systemic change.

Desired

- Litigation skills and experience.
- Expert level knowledge of SSI.
- Connections to and experience working with the aging, legal services and/or disability communities in California.
- Familiarity with other public benefits programs that serve low-income seniors (e.g., Medi-Cal, Medicare, Social Security, other home and community based services).
- Familiarity with anti-discrimination law and policies.
- Track record of training of attorneys and lay advocates.
- Polished public speaker.

Justice in Aging is an Equal Opportunity Employer that advocates for older adults, particularly those in populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection, such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency. To promote social justice and best achieve our mission, Justice in Aging is committed to maintaining a diverse staff and creating an inclusive and respectful workplace in which differences are acknowledged and valued. Having a diverse staff at all levels informs our work and our ability to identify, think about, and respond to the needs of underserved communities. Within our organization, working with a diverse group of people makes us more well-rounded, creative, and capable, and gives us different perspectives from which to strategize, plan, and respond to the needs of the communities we serve. Therefore, we particularly encourage applications from members of racial and ethnic minority groups, women, the LGBT community, and others whose background may contribute to more effective representation of low-income people and underserved communities.

Justice in Aging offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including health, dental and life insurance; flexible reimbursement plan; 403(b) retirement savings plan; personal days; and generous vacation policy.

To Apply: Please submit the following to Katrina Cohens, kcohens@justiceinaging.org: cover letter that describes your interest in this particular position, résumé, one writing sample, and three professional references. Please describe in your application how your personal or professional experience or background has prepared you to be effective in a work environment with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion.