



Staff Attorney- Public Benefits

Change Lives and Transform Communities – Join Our Economic Security Team!

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA) provides free assistance to over 160,000 individuals and families each year through innovative projects that expand access to justice. We see the law as a powerful tool for social change and we're looking for passionate individuals to help us fight for justice.

We value diverse perspectives and experiences, and we believe that a strong community is built through inclusivity. NLSLA is proud to foster an environment that welcomes individuals from all backgrounds and abilities, and we encourage all qualified candidates to apply.

About the Role

NLSLA seeks a passionate public benefits Staff Attorney to join its Economic Security team. The ideal candidate will be a skilled advocate with a strong commitment to public interest law, capable of working independently in a fast-paced, anti-poverty practice. Prior experience serving low-income communities and strong research, writing, and analytical skills are preferred.

The Economic Security team helps individuals with public benefits and workers' rights issues. The public benefits issues include securing essential benefits such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Relief, CAPI, RCA, SSI, and SSDI, which provide food, housing, and medical support. Our work has a growing focus on immigrant access to benefits, including through the BAILA Network (www.bailanetwork.org).

NLSLA is also a key advocate in Los Angeles fire disaster response, providing public benefits guidance and assistance with FEMA appeals.

In this role, you would report to the Supervising Attorney. This position is exempt and temporary.

What You'll Do

- Represent individuals in public benefits cases, including drafting letters and briefs, gathering evidence, interviewing clients, and presenting oral arguments on clients' behalf at administrative hearings.

- Do legal research and draft memos, letters, administrative and court documents, and client-facing legal education materials.
- Representation in administrative advocacy and impact litigation cases.
- Policy advocacy at the state/local levels.
- Provide training and technical assistance to other organizations and legal services providers and promote access to public benefits in a range of forums.
- Provide community outreach and education on topics related to public benefits such as benefits eligibility, claimants' due process rights, public charge rules, and more.
- This position is designated as hybrid. Employees are required to work on-site a minimum of two (2) days per week, with the remaining time eligible for remote work as business needs allow. Specific in-office days may be set by the department or manager to support team collaboration and organizational priorities.
- Travel to NLSLA program offices, courthouses, and other locations throughout Los Angeles County may be required.

What You'll Need

- A Juris Doctor (JD) from an accredited law school.
- An active California State Bar license.
- Excellent writing, speaking, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively and independently in a fast-paced environment.
- Prior experience working with programs serving low-income people in the substantive areas of public benefits is preferred.
- Ability to work closely with clients from different backgrounds with both effectiveness and compassion.
- A sense of integrity and a commitment to maintaining confidentiality and ethical standards.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel, business communication platforms, and web-based case management platforms.
- Passion for NLSLA mission and demonstrated commitment to advocating for the legal rights of low-income individuals.
- Passion, empathy, and compassion for supporting people from different lived experiences.

Bonus Points

- Bilingual in Spanish, due to the high number of Spanish-speaking residents in the community, or in any of the other Los Angeles threshold languages (Mandarin, Armenian, Korean), which is highly valued in our community outreach efforts.
- Have previous experience working in a legal aid or public interest law firm.

Why You'll Love Working with Us

At NLSLA, we believe in supporting our staff as they grow in their careers and live balanced lives. We offer:

- **Competitive Salary:** \$85,000–\$93,000, based on experience.
- **Generous Time Off:** 15 paid holidays, 2 to 5 weeks of vacation depending on seniority, and 12 days of sick leave. Exempt employees are eligible for compensatory time in accordance with company policy.
- **Comprehensive Benefits:**
 - Medical, dental, and vision insurance with a variety of plan options.
 - Basic Life and AD&D Insurance, Long-Term Disability Insurance.
 - 403(b) retirement plan and options for voluntary contributions.
 - Monthly bilingual supplement for qualified employees.
 - Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which provides law school student loan repayment assistance for eligible individuals.
- **A Culture of Inclusion:** We are committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive work environment where everyone can thrive.
- **Perks:** Technology reimbursement to help you stay connected and equipped to do your best work.

Apply Today

Are you ready to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable families in Los Angeles?

Apply now to join our team and be part of a mission-driven organization dedicated to justice and equity. [Click here to apply](#). Please provide a cover letter, resume, and writing sample on the application.

We are excited to hear from you!

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

NLSLA is committed to provide a work environment that respects the dignity and worth of each individual and is free from all forms of employment discrimination based on each and every characteristic protected under the law and beyond.

Decisions related to hiring, compensating, training, evaluating performance, promoting, or terminating are made fairly, and are based on job-related qualities and abilities. We provide equal employment opportunities to all qualified candidates and employees. We examine our unconscious biases and take responsibility for always striving to create an inclusive environment that makes every employee and candidate feel welcome.

We further expect every member of the NLSLA community to do their part to cultivate and maintain an environment where everyone has the opportunity to feel included and is afforded the respect and dignity they deserve.

We will consider for employment all qualified applicants, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles' Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance. Please note that, in limited circumstances, certain convictions may be considered incompatible with the responsibilities of specific roles, particularly where the safety and well-being of vulnerable client populations are a concern.

NLSLA's Commitments

We are committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging within our organization and the communities we serve. We achieve this through:

- **Continuous Learning:** Cultivating cultural competency and humility among staff through ongoing training, open dialogue, and self-reflection.
- **Equitable Practices:** Regularly reviewing and revising policies, procedures, and decision-making processes to ensure fairness and access for all.
- **Strategic Resource Allocation:** Directing resources towards initiatives that empower communities.
- **Meaningful Community Engagement:** Partnering with the communities we serve to co-create solutions and foster trust.
- **A Respectful Workplace:** Providing a work environment free from discrimination and where every individual is valued, heard, and respected for their unique contributions.