



Youth Shelter and Housing Attorney
Location: Flexible
Start Date: March 2023

The National Homelessness Law Center (Law Center) seeks a strategic, mission-driven attorney to serve as our **Youth Shelter and Housing Attorney**. The Law Center is the legal arm of the national movement to end homelessness and is looking for a leader compelled by the national housing crisis and energized by our vision of housing as a human right and commitment to dismantling structural racism.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF POSITION:

The Youth Shelter and Housing Attorney will focus on the legal rights of youth and young adults in shelter, transitional housing programs, supportive housing, host homes, and other housing programs without a clear landlord/tenant relationship. This attorney will train civil legal aid attorneys to advance and defend the rights of youth in these programs, advocate for program improvements at the federal, state, and local level, create and disseminate Know Your Rights information geared toward youth and young adults in housing programs, and train shelter and housing providers on best practices. This attorney will also track and monitor systemic issues for litigation and work with local partners and pro bono attorneys to engage in litigation to protect the rights of unhoused youth.

This is an ideal opportunity for an attorney who thrives in a values-aligned organization. The Law Center's budget for 2023 is \$2.2 million. The Law Center is financially sound and maintains a reserve.

ABOUT THE LAW CENTER:

Founded in 1989, the Law Center is the leading national organization using the power of the law to advocate for the millions of people experiencing homelessness and housing instability in the United States. Our work has put unhoused children back in school, won new resources for affordable housing, prevented homelessness for renters, overturned laws that criminalize homelessness, and built support for the human right to housing, now a major component of federal domestic policy. We play a critical role in protecting, defending and promoting the rights of unhoused persons to ensure they can lead national, state and local efforts to end homelessness.

Our core conviction is that no one should have to go without safe, affordable housing in a country as wealthy as ours. The Law Center's work, in partnership with national, state and local partners, is critical now more than ever as the eviction and affordable housing crises, exacerbated by the pandemic, push record numbers of persons into homelessness. People of color, people living with disabilities, women and members of the LGBTQ+ community are disproportionately and uniquely affected by homelessness, and our work consciously and affirmatively seeks to address these interrelated inequities.

We are proud of our high quality and committed team of 10 staff persons and 2 VISTAs, as well as our large corps of volunteer attorneys. Although headquartered in Washington, DC, Law Center staff live and work across the country. In April 2021, the Law Center welcomed its second Executive Director, Antonia Fasanelli, a national leader recognized for her expertise in housing and homelessness law and policy. The Law Center elevates the power and voices of persons with lived expertise in working toward systems change.

For more information, read our Annual Reports (<https://homelesslaw.org/resources/annual-report/>) and explore our website at www.homelesslaw.org.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Enhance the legal rights of unhoused and unstably housed youth in shelters and non-traditional housing programs by creating a national training program for civil legal aid providers and advocating for policy improvements;
- Launch a training program with the National Housing Law Project and the American Bar Association to identify civil legal aid providers that work with youth and increase their capacity to represent youth facing termination from shelters and non-traditional housing programs;
- Provide technical assistance to civil legal aid providers engaging in due process negotiations and litigation on behalf of unhoused and unstably housed youth;
- Create a toolkit on best practices for shelters and non-traditional housing programs to protect the due process rights of youth and decrease illegal terminations;
- In collaboration with the Youth Team Communications Associate, create and disseminate Know Your Rights materials geared towards youth and young adults in shelter and housing programs;
- Identify issues for potential systemic litigation aimed at improving the lives of unhoused youth;
- Identify, develop, and execute advocacy strategies to improve youth rights in shelter and non-traditional housing programs at the federal, state, or local levels;
- Provide input to the Law Center Development Team to help write and report on grants for program work;
- Collaborate with the Youth Team Senior Attorney on annual and strategic planning for the program and track and evaluate results; and
- Collaborate with other Law Center staff on cross-organizational priorities.

WHO YOU ARE:

- You have a JD and are admitted and in good standing in at least one US jurisdiction;
- You have at least 5 years of attorney experience, ideally in housing law or policy.
- You have litigation experience on behalf of economically-disadvantaged populations. Systemic impact litigation experience is a plus.
- You enjoy taking initiative, and you think strategically and creatively.
- You have an understanding of international human rights frameworks and share our belief that all human beings have the right to a basic standard of living that includes safe, affordable housing, healthcare, and freedom from discrimination and cruelty.
- You have a positive and constructive attitude.
- You write clearly and accessibly, and have experience editing others' writing.

- You enjoy multi-tasking and thrive in a collaborative and fast-paced work environment.
- You have a justice-oriented understanding for how race and power impact relationships, organizational culture and partnerships. You are committed to a personal and professional practice around deepening this understanding, through continuous learning, reflection and growth.
- You have experience in a social justice nonprofit. Any prior work experience in the housing justice and/or homeless-rights fields or relevant life experience is a plus.
- You have flexibility for occasional travel.

SALARY, BENEFITS AND LOCATION:

Salary: The attorney will be paid in accordance with the Law Center’s salary scale for attorneys based on years of experience. The 2023 scale for attorneys with at least 5 years of experience begins at a salary of \$74,500 and increases a salary step for each additional year of experience.

Benefits: Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Short and Long-term Disability Insurance all fully employer paid and a 403(b) retirement plan with supplemental salary contribution. The Law Center provides a leave package of vacation (20 days per year), sick leave (10 days per year), personal leave (5 days per year), and all Federal holidays. In addition, the Law Center also closes two weeks per year. The Law Center has flexible work schedule options.

Location: The Law Center staff are primarily working remotely due to COVID-19. We are headquartered in Washington, DC, but staff are located around the country. Occasional travel to DC or other locations may be required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Send cover letter and resume to HR@homelesslaw.org with “Youth Shelter and Housing Attorney, Last Name _ First Name” in the subject line. No phone calls, please.

The Law Center is an equal opportunity employer. The Law Center values an inclusive, diverse workplace and does not unlawfully discriminate on any basis prohibited by law. The Law Center encourages applications from all interested persons of any race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, personal appearance, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, or any other legally protected status.

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: We seek to fill this position as soon as possible. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until filled.