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Attorney/Director Immigrant Justice Program

Posted July 15, 2009 – Open Immediately

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, a non-profit provider of civil legal assistance to low-income persons in the Charlotte area and Western North Carolina, seeks candidates for Attorney/Director of the Immigrant Justice Program. See attached program description for case types and other information.

LSSP is committed to aggressive advocacy on behalf of low-income people in many areas of law and in all forums in which their rights and interests are determined. LSSP attorneys give legal advice, represent individual low-income clients in state and federal courts and administrative agencies, provide community legal education, participate in community events, assist other agencies serving low-income people and engage in class action litigation and in legislative, administrative and other systemic advocacy projects and activities. LSSP is funded by grants from federal, state and local government agencies, United Way of Central Carolinas, private foundations, individual contributions and client fees but receives no Legal Services Corporation funds. More information about LSSP is at: www.lssp.org.

Qualifications: (1) minimum three years law practice; (2) NC Bar license or eligible for comity or NC Bar exam; (3) demonstrated commitment to low-income people; (4) strong communication and analytical ability; (5) strong interest in both individual and systemic advocacy, (6) self-motivated, creative and dependable. *Sufficient knowledge of Spanish to conduct client interviews without interpreter is strongly preferred.*

Salary: \$48,000+ depending on experience; generous leave and benefits.

To Apply: Send detailed letter explaining your qualifications for and your interest in the specific position and in this organization, bar status, and experience with low-income people accompanied by a resume; writing sample; the names and telephone numbers of three references; and any other relevant information to: Kenneth Schorr, Executive Director, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, by email to kens@lssp.org or by mail to 1431 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte, NC, 28204, *email is preferred.*

Equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons encouraged to apply.



Immigrant Justice Program

The purpose of the Immigrant Justice Program (IJP) is to protect low-income, non-English-speaking Hispanic residents and immigrants from other nations from exploitation, to ensure accessibility of public services, to stabilize the immigration status of clients, and to provide remedies despite barriers to redress.

The program provides individual advice and representation to low-income non-English-speaking Hispanics and immigrants from other nations before state and federal courts, administrative agencies and legislative bodies; conducts community legal education programs; educates community agencies concerning the legal rights of immigrants; and assists those agencies in serving the needs of immigrants.

CASE TYPES:

- Family law: domestic violence, child custody where child is in danger
- Housing law: habitability, preventing discrimination, defending evictions
- Consumer law: especially involving mobile homes and automobiles
- Employment law: wage claims and unemployment insurance
- Public benefits: ensuring accessibility and proper eligibility determination
- Immigration law
 - Immigration assistance for victims of domestic violence
 - VAWA petitions
 - Cancellation of removal
 - U and T visas for victims of trafficking and domestic violence crimes
 - Gender-based asylum claims
 - Affirmative and defensive asylum claims
 - NACARA
 - Temporary Protected Status applications
 - Family-based petitions necessary to reunite a family
 - Limited removal defense

For immigration cases, IJP provides individual representation in Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Wilkes, Mitchell, Avery, Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba, Burke, Yancey, McDowell, Cleveland, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly and Union counties. For all other case types, IJP provides individual representation in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Union counties with some limited assistance in the other counties listed above. In addition, IJP provides community education programs in all counties listed above.