

Community Legal Aid

A non-profit law firm serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in central northeast Ohio



www.communitylegalaid.org

Summer Associate Program: Neighborhood Law Project

The Neighborhood Law Project (NLP) is a neighborhood revitalization project that uses a community lawyering approach to improve health, education, economic opportunity, and quality of life for residents of the City of Youngstown through transformation of their neighborhoods.

Project Focus 1: Taft Promise Neighborhood (TPN) Working with approximately 40 community partners and residents of the neighborhood surrounding Taft Elementary, the NLP team is working to increase education outcomes, improve housing stock, remove barriers to employment and improve the health and wellness of residents.

Project Focus 2: Working in neighborhoods identified by Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, the NLP team is working to improve the quality of housing stock, to reduce the number of land contracts that are predatory and to support the start-up of small businesses.

Position Description:

The NLP Summer Associate may, under attorney supervision, assist with the following casework for residents in the neighborhoods served:

- Evictions
- Foreclosures
- Housing conditions
- Land contracts
- Consumer debt and bankruptcy cases
- Record sealing
- Reinstatement of driving privileges
- Custody matters relating to school enrollment
- Public benefit matters
- Special education/IEPs

In the course of this work, the summer associate will have hands-on experience in preparing cases for trial, interviewing clients, issue spotting, case work-up and drafting of pleadings, memorandums, etc.

The summer associate will also assist with the development of community education materials and case protocols, attend community meetings, work with resident organizations and TPN councils and conduct legal and policy research.

Specific Qualifications:

This position is best suited for a student who is interested in poverty law, urban development, or education.

Personal characteristics:

- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to relate to and work with both professionals and residents of a community with one of the highest poverty rates in the country

Helpful coursework:

- Administrative Law
- Advanced Legal Research
- Bankruptcy
- Basic Business Associations
- Civil Litigation
- Contracts, Property, and Problem Solving Workshop

The summer associate should be proficient in Microsoft Word programs, Google Docs, and legal and internet research tools. Ability to speak Spanish is a plus.

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