



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Attorney for Foreclosure Prevention Alliance Project

Hampden County Office: Springfield, MA

Western Massachusetts Legal Services Inc. (WMLS) is seeking applications for an experienced attorney for its Foreclosure Prevention Alliance Project, supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. This Project Attorney position is a one year Contract Employee position at WMLS, funded by a grant expected to end on December 31, 2010. There is no expectation that the position will be refunded. The Project Attorney will be based in the Springfield office of WMLS and will serve clients in the four counties of Western Massachusetts. In addition to providing direct legal representation and assistance for low-to-moderate income residents facing foreclosure, the Project Attorney will also mentor and assist pro bono attorneys in the area of consumer law and foreclosure defense and prevention work, provide community outreach and training in the area of consumer protection against predatory lending practices, and serve as a member of the Alliance of Providers of Legal Services to Individuals Facing Foreclosure in Hampden County.

WMLS is a private, non-profit legal aid law firm with a long tradition of providing quality civil legal representation to individuals and families, and engaging in aggressive advocacy in all forums to address social justice issues facing poor people in our community. WMLS is principally supported by state and IOLTA funds and does not receive support from the Legal Services Corporation. We represent low income people using all available legal strategies.

Nestled in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains and the Pioneer Valley, and with proximity to New York and Boston, Western Massachusetts offers a unique blend of rural New England living with a wide range of cultural, educational and recreational opportunities.

Requirements: The successful candidate must be an attorney with a *minimum* of two years of experience in consumer protection law and foreclosure defense and prevention work, and must be licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The attorney must be experienced in working independently and must be immediately available to begin work.

Additional requirements include: strong legal, communication and computer skills; experience with low-to-moderate income populations; the ability to relate effectively to a diverse clientele; and experience in training and/or mentoring attorneys. Supervisory experience is strongly preferred. Bilingual ability, particularly Spanish, is a plus. Some travel will be required.

Salary/Benefits: Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Benefits include medical insurance and pre-tax flexible benefit and retirement plans; generous vacation and sick leave; and excellent training and professional development opportunities. The successful candidate will be fully covered under the liability insurance policies of WMLS.

Responsibilities: The Project Attorney will provide (1) legal assistance and representation to low-to-moderate income individuals and families in the four counties of Western Massachusetts (Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire) who present with foreclosure or other issues of financial distress related to predatory lending practices; (2) legal assistance and mentoring to pro bono attorneys enlisted to work on consumer claims and foreclosure prevention and defense work; and (3) trainings and outreach to the larger Western Massachusetts community. S/he will also be an active member of the Alliance of Providers of Legal Services to Individuals Facing Foreclosure. The Project Attorney will report to the Litigation Director of WMLS.

To Apply: Please send resume and cover letter to: **Juliet Hansen (jhansen@wmls.org)**. Email applications are preferred, but may be mailed to: **Juliet Hansen, Executive Assistant, WMLS, One Monarch Place, Suite 400, Springfield, MA 01144**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

WMLS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, CLASS, COLOR, DISABILITY, ETHNICITY, GENDER, MARITAL AND FAMILY STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR STATUS AS A VETERAN.