



Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps

Organization: Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps

Located in: Champaign, Illinois

About Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance is a not-for-profit organization that provides free legal services to eligible clients in civil cases through five regional offices. Land of Lincoln is funded by numerous partners, including the Legal Services Corporation, Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, CNCS AmeriCorps and Equal Justice Works, United Way, Area Agencies on Aging. Its mission is to provide eligible low-income and senior residents of central and southern Illinois with high quality civil legal services in order to obtain and maintain their basic human needs. Through advice, representation, advocacy, education, and collaboration, we seek to achieve justice for those whose voices might otherwise not be heard; to empower individuals to advocate for themselves; and to make positive changes in the communities we serve.

Fellowship Summary

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance is hosting a one-year Fellowship to provide essential legal services to our nation's veterans, active military service members, and their families. The selected candidate will be a part of a corps of legal Fellows serving in the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Program and will encounter hands-on experience providing direct legal representation to the veteran community. The Fellow's role combines elements of direct legal representation and community outreach and advocacy. The attorney selected for this Fellowship will be housed at Land of Lincoln's Champaign office. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the selected Fellow's term of service **must begin prior to October 1, 2018 and last for one year.**

Fellowship Description

The Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps (VLC) Fellow will:

1. Provide high quality direct legal representation to financially eligible veterans and their families. This will likely involve conducting intake, assembling evidence, conducting interviews, and researching relevant law.
2. Work with community partner agencies and conduct outreach to 16 county areas to inform veterans of our services, facilitate referrals of potential clients, and education communities about legal needs of veterans and their families.
3. Participate in a national corps of attorneys committed to providing legal representation to the veteran community.
4. Have access to a substantive and skills-based training curriculum and ongoing support, including participation in Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C.
5. Position is a one-year Fellowship.

Qualifications

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal Fellow will possess a demonstrated commitment to public interest work and a strong desire to assist indigent clients. Further, the ideal candidate will have the following:

- Excellent writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills;
- Strong oral and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member;
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments;
- Diverse economic, social and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred;
- Law school clinic, externship, summer, or other relevant practice experience;
- Illinois state bar membership or eligibility to practice in Illinois under limited permission rule preferred (the latter is available as a result of bar membership in another state);
- Knowledge of veterans' benefits law and/or experience with veterans and military families; Military service or related-military background, including status as a military dependent are encouraged to apply;

Required Qualifications

- Ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only convictions for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable pursuant to Equal Justice Works review and approval);
- **Ability to begin the fellowship no later than October 1, 2018 and attend Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C. from November 6 – 8, 2018.**

Compensation Package

The Fellow will receive an annual living allowance, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses. Additionally, Fellows receive an education award, health insurance, and other benefits. Interested applicants should contact Land of Lincoln with any follow up questions.

Other Benefits Provided by Land of Lincoln:

- Land of Lincoln fringe benefits, including health insurance (medical, dental, Rx), disability insurance, life insurance, and flex benefit plan
- Parking provided
- Position related travel reimbursement and bar dues provided
- Opportunities to participate in national substantive training on veterans law issues and in a variety of local and regional skills-based and substantive trainings

Other Benefits and Professional Opportunities offered by AmeriCorps:

- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
- Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
- Childcare assistance (if income-eligible)

Application Instructions

Interested candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and a list of three (3) references with mailing and/or email addresses and telephone numbers, and legal writing sample **by September 7, 2018**, to:

Susan Zielke
Managing Attorney
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.
302 North First Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
szielke@lollaf.org

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Application Deadline

September 7, 2018, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.