



LEGAL SERVICES CENTER OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
CENTRO DE SERVICIOS LEGALES

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FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Safety Net Project (SNP) of The Legal Services Center (LSC) of Harvard Law School is seeking a dedicated, culturally sensitive eligible student or graduate with a strong commitment to disability rights and social justice advocacy to sponsor as a Fellow. The successful candidate will serve Boston area low-income individuals with disabilities and their families in accessing safety net cash assistance, nutritional support and health care programs through direct representation, litigation, systems advocacy, and community legal education.

Located in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of the City of Boston, LSC is a community-based public interest law firm affiliated with Harvard Law School's clinical program. Through six separate practice areas – SNP, Veterans Legal Clinic, Federal Tax Clinic, Family Law Clinic, Predatory Lending/Consumer Protection Clinic, and Housing Clinic – we provide essential civil legal services to low- and moderate-income residents in Greater Boston and in some instances, where cases present important law reform opportunities, to clients outside of our service area. Since 1979, we have engaged in cutting-edge litigation and legal strategies to improve the lives of individual clients, to seek systemic change for the communities we serve, and to provide clinical learning opportunities. To these ends, we actively partner with a diverse array of organizations, including healthcare and social service providers and advocacy groups, and continually adapt our practice areas to meet the changing legal needs of our client communities.

SNP at LSC is unique in that it specifically addresses barriers faced by clients experiencing not just poverty, but also chronic medical issues. Representing these clients requires not only knowledge of traditional public benefits programs, such as VA and Social Security disability benefits and SNAP assistance, but also an understanding of the ways in which these programs intersect with each other and across other areas of clients' lives, including asset protection, housing, estate planning, consumer debt, tax, and family law issues. Because of LSC's structure a portion of the clients served by SNP are referred through the Veterans Legal Clinic and it is therefore anticipated that the Fellow will work extensively with veterans in need.

Through direct client representation, coalition building, and systemic advocacy, the Fellow's docket will focus on four main areas: (1) federal disability benefits including from Social Security and VA; (2) state administered benefits, including SNAP and MA Veterans Services benefits; (3) screening for healthcare and financial decision-making instruments and estate planning matters; and (4) extensive outreach, partner collaboration, and dissemination of information about available resources through the regular provision of in-person workshops, written materials, and online resources.

Responsibilities will include conducting client interviews, engaging in fact investigation, negotiating with governmental agencies and counsel, and representing clients at administrative hearings, before administrative appeal boards, and in state and federal court. The Fellow will also engage in policy work in areas that affect our clients' rights, participate in community collaborations, and engage in community outreach and education. The Fellow will be fully integrated into LSC's collegial and supportive work environment, where the successful candidate would be one of several staff attorneys funded by fellowships or grants to carry out specific projects or initiatives.

Requirements: Law graduates (current 3L's) and recent graduates with strong writing backgrounds and a demonstrated interest in disability rights, poverty law, and social justice are welcome to apply.

Interested candidates seeking further information should contact Safety Net Project director Julie McCormack at [jmccorma\[at\]law.harvard.edu](mailto:jmccorma[at]law.harvard.edu).