

August 12, 2024

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

THE ALAN MANSFIELD RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP SPECIAL LITIGATION PROJECT

Mobilization for Justice (MFJ), a non-profit legal services organization that provides a wide range of free civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers, is accepting applications for its third annual Alan Mansfield Racial Justice Fellowship, to start in Fall 2024. The Fellowship was created in 2021 in memory of Alan Mansfield, a beloved longtime partner at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Chair of MFJ's Board of Directors, and 25-year member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Nominations. The Fellowship is designed for public interest-focused attorneys with at least 1-2 years of affirmative litigation or clerkship experience. The Mansfield Fellowship is a one-year fellowship.

The Mansfield Fellow will work in MFJ's Special Litigation Project (SLP) alongside two experienced public interest litigators. MFJ created the SLP in 2020 to expand and strengthen the scope of our impact litigation and law reform work. The SLP works closely with staff across MFJ's core program areas (Housing, Economic Justice, Disability and Aging Rights, and Children's Rights) to identify systemic problems affecting MFJ's clients. The SLP focuses on problems that have a significant racial justice component and would benefit from impact or class action litigation and law reform work. The SLP develops and litigates cases in federal and state court with co-counsel partnerships, serves as a resource on litigation strategy for MFJ attorneys, and engages in non-litigation advocacy on issues of concern, including through community organizing, legislative advocacy, and media relations work.

MFJ's mission is to achieve justice for all. MFJ prioritizes the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised, or have disabilities as they struggle to overcome the effects of social injustice and systemic racism. We provide the highest-quality free, direct civil legal assistance, conduct community education and build partnerships, engage in policy advocacy, and bring impact litigation. We assist more than 14,000 New Yorkers each year, benefiting over 24,000. MFJ has a staff of more than 165 attorneys, paralegals, social workers, and support staff. It is a diverse, unionized, and collegial workplace where staff share the organization's mission to achieve social justice.

The Mansfield Fellow's primary responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Working on a broad range of impact and class action litigation challenging constitutional and other civil rights violations in the areas of special education, law enforcement, public benefits, and immigration; discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and other spheres; predatory lending; and environmental injustice, among other areas.
- Collaborating with other public interest legal organizations and private firms on systemic investigations, litigation, amicus briefs, and other forms of advocacy;
- Helping develop new cases from the ground up; and
- Receiving mentoring and training on discovery, motion practice, public policy advocacy, media relations, and community organizing.

Requirements:

- A J.D. degree, admission or pending admission to New York, and at least 1-2 years of litigation experience. Law students who have not yet graduated will not be considered.
- Excellent research, writing, verbal communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to MFJ's mission and goals, including its pursuit of racial and social justice.
- Ability to work independently.
- Class action litigation experience in state or federal court is a plus.
- Demonstrated proficiency or fluency in Spanish, a Chinese dialect, French Creole, Bengali, or other second language is a plus.

Salary/Fellowship Stipend is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement with excellent fringe benefits, including healthcare. The salary range for this position is currently **\$81,000 to \$99,019.81**. Greenberg Traurig, LLP is a co-sponsor of the Fellowship.

How to apply: interested applicants should email a (1) cover letter, (2) resume, (3) writing sample (10-page max), and (4) three references to recruitment@mfjlegal.org with the subject line "Mansfield Fellowship Application." **Please include in your cover letter a statement about how your background or experience might contribute to the diversity and perspective of our office and the SLP's work with low-income populations.** Please also indicate where you saw this posting. Applications must be received by September 20, 2024. No telephone calls, please. Candidates selected for consideration will be scheduled for an interview.

For more information about MFJ, please go to www.mobilizationforjustice.org. For more information about the SLP, please go to www.mobilizationforjustice.org/projects/special-litigation-project/.

MFJ IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, gender, age, religion, national origin, citizen status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. BIPOC, women, people with disabilities, and LBGTQIA+ candidates are encouraged to apply.