

September 1, 2011

Job Announcement
Staff Attorney – Housing Litigation, Outreach and Advocacy

MFY Legal Services, Inc. (MFY), a 48-year old nonprofit public interest law firm, has an opening for a staff attorney in its Neighborhood Preservation Project (NPP) to represent low-income New Yorkers in matters involving eviction prevention and tenant rights advocacy. The attorney will also represent seniors in eviction matters, including cases referred from the Assigned Counsel Project, a pilot program designed to provide a right to counsel for elderly people in eviction cases. Affirmative impact litigation is encouraged on issues affecting the stock of affordable housing and the rights of rent-regulated tenants, as are community outreach and training to social workers and others who serve this community.

MFY's 45-person staff is comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers and support staff. It is a diverse, unionized, and collegial workplace. Staff caseloads balance advice and individual representation with law reform advocacy and litigation. MFY does not receive federal LSC funding. For more information, visit www.mfy.org.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct client intake, do research and writing, litigate all phases of cases including motions, trials and appeals.
- Represent people in housing, supreme courts and federal courts and at administrative agencies.
- Bring HP actions and work to develop other strategies to compel landlords to make building-wide repairs, including curing conditions such as bedbug infestation.
- Conduct outreach to the community, and train tenants, community groups and other advocates on substantive law matters.
- Identify issues for impact litigation or policy initiatives for the tenant community.
- Maintain records in office database.

Requirements:

1. Admission to NYS Bar.
2. 1-3 years housing court or general civil litigation experience in state or federal court.
3. Well organized and capable of managing a substantial litigation docket.
4. Spanish or Chinese language skills a plus.

Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement depending on year of graduation with excellent fringe benefits.

Applicants should submit cover letter, resume and writing sample to Jeanette Zelhof, Executive Director, and transmit by e-mail to eperez@mfy.org.

MFY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.