



Don Valley Community Legal Services

Staff Lawyer – Team Lead (Housing) Position

Don Valley Community Legal Services (“DVCLS”) is a community legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario. DVCLS provides free, clinic law services to persons of modest income in the areas of housing, immigration and refugee, employment and income maintenance. We are located in Toronto, and our catchment area is bounded by Lake Ontario on the South to York Mills/401 on the North, and from Yonge Street/Don River on the West to Victoria Park Avenue on the East.

DVCLS is seeking a lawyer to join and lead our Housing Team on a full-time, permanent basis. As Team Lead, the candidate will oversee the work of the Housing Team, and provide service delivery reports under the guidance of the Director of Legal Services. As a Staff Lawyer, the candidate will provide legal advice and representation to tenants primarily at the Landlord and Tenant Board, with some appellate level litigation. The candidate will also collaborate with DVCLS’s community partners to provide public legal education seminars and workshops, and undertake law reform initiatives and community development projects for our community.

In accordance with DVCLS’s hybrid workplace model, the successful candidate will be expected to work both remotely and on-site at our offices and pop-up locations. There is also the possibility of expanding the candidate’s legal practice to include another area of law, particularly as DVCLS relocates its main office to the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub.

The anticipated start date is February 2025.

Qualifications:

- A lawyer in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario
- 2 – 5 years of demonstrated legal experience representing parties before the Landlord and Tenant Board, or other Tribunals and Courts, and with drafting applications, motions and reviews
- Extensive knowledge of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* and the *Housing Services Act, 2011*
- Strong legal advocacy and research skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

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- Proficiency in M365, Adobe Acrobat DC and Zoom Workplace
- Ability to lead, oversee and mentor the legal work of a team consisting of lawyers, paralegals, articling/law students and support staff
- Ability to handle a full caseload, meet tight deadlines, maintain accuracy and attention to detail with minimal supervision
- Demonstrated commitment to working from an anti-oppression and social justice framework
- Experience working with a diverse range of clients from low-income and marginalized groups, including and in particular clients with mental health challenges
- Ability to diffuse tense situations and to assist people in crisis in a calming and helpful manner
- Ability to prepare and present public legal education seminars and workshops to the community using plain English
- Ability to work both remotely and on-site

Assets:

- Experience litigating at the appellate level
- General knowledge of or experience in other areas of clinic law services, or with provincial and municipal powers that target or disproportionately affect low-income or marginalized people
- Familiarity with the Legal Aid Ontario Clinic Information Management System
- Familiarity with resources and agencies in DVCLS's community
- Knowledge of a second language pertinent to serving DVCLS's catchment area
- Experience in media relations, outreach, lobbying, networking, event organizing or stakeholder engagement

Remuneration:

- Salary Range: \$95,000.00 to \$105,000.00 based on year of call, experience and qualifications
- Participation in DVCLS's group benefits plan and defined benefit pension plan
- Payment of the LSO annual dues invoice (as per commencement of employment)

Applications:

Applications must include a resume, cover letter, contact information for two references and a writing sample of up to five pages (opinion letter, research memo, factum *etc.*)

Applications may be submitted by email to bhavin.bilimoria@dvcls.clcj.ca, by fax or by mail, and should be addressed to the Hiring Committee.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 PM on January 24, 2025. We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

As an employer, DVCLS is dedicated to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our clients and the communities we serve. This includes diversity in languages spoken, culture, race, sexual orientation and gender identity. We encourage applications from individuals from diverse, marginalized and racialized communities and backgrounds. DVCLS promotes the principles of anti-oppression and adheres to the tenets of Ontario's *Human Rights Code*. Please let us know if you have any accommodation needs regarding the submission of your application.