



**STAFF ATTORNEY
LAND USE & NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE**

The [Community Development Project](#) (CDP) at the [Urban Justice Center](#) seeks a Staff Attorney to provide legal support to grassroots groups on matters related to neighborhood change and development. We believe that legal services focused on land use are a critical way to support responsible, equitable development and to combat gentrification and displacement. CDP's work in this area has included advocacy around neighborhood rezonings, negotiation of community benefits agreements, participation in citywide coalitions that support equitable development, and litigation challenging proposed developments. The position reports to the Supervising Attorney for CDP's Capacity Building Practice. Depending on organizational needs and the candidate's interests and experience, this position may offer opportunities to also work on transactional matters, such as nonprofit and worker cooperative development and support.

Primary Responsibilities include:

- Support local coalitions and grassroots groups in neighborhoods facing rezonings by conducting trainings, supporting the formation of coalitions, researching best practices in equitable development, reviewing and crafting responses to the City's proposed rezoning plans, and supporting local groups in developing and advocating for policies to better meet community needs.
- Negotiate and draft legally binding Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) with private developers to ensure that community members obtain concrete benefits from development projects.
- Advocate to legislative bodies and agencies in partnership with CDP's clients regarding issues related to equitable neighborhood change and development.
- Participate in coalitions to support policies that promote equitable development.
- Develop and pursue litigation to protect community members' interests in the face of rezoning and development initiatives.
- Develop new strategies and partnerships to advance equitable neighborhood change.
- Support CDP on other substantive and administrative projects.
- Comply with all grant reporting requirements and supporting CDP's development department to ensure ongoing funding for the work.

Qualifications/Skills:

Required:

- Admission to the New York State Bar, able to be admitted on motion, or pending admission.

- Demonstrated commitment to grassroots efforts for economic, racial and social justice.
- Excellent organizational and interpersonal/communication skills.
- Strong writing and analytical skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse populations.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.

Strongly Preferred:

- At least 1-2 years post-law school experience in civil legal services or comparable work.
- Familiarity with land use, property, local government, zoning, and/or NYC housing law.
- Experience with urban planning, policy development, and/or legislative advocacy.
- Litigation experience.
- Fluency in Spanish.
- Experience working with social justice and/or community organizing groups.

Background:

The Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center strengthens the impact of grassroots organizations in New York City's low-income and other excluded communities. We partner with community organizations to win legal cases, publish community-driven research reports, assist with the formation of new organizations and cooperatives, and provide technical and transactional assistance in support of their work towards social justice. CDP's current practice areas are Affordable Housing, Consumer Justice, Research & Policy, Worker's Rights, and Capacity Building. cdp.urbanjustice.org

The Community Development Project is an equal opportunity employer. CDP encourages applications from people with diverse backgrounds, including women, people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, people from low income backgrounds, and people with personal experience with the criminal justice system. We strongly encourage applications from people with lived experiences in the communities we serve.

Salary and compensation: A competitive salary and excellent benefits package is available, with generous vacation, personal, and sick time, along with industry leading medical and dental coverage. CDP's staff attorneys are on a fixed salary scale, and the salary for this position will be determined based on years of relevant experience in accordance with the scale. This is a bargaining unit position represented for collective bargaining purposes by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW, Local 2320. The Urban Justice Center's union has been formally recognized and is in the process of negotiating its first union contract.

Application Instructions:

Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter by e-mail to cdpjobs@urbanjustice.org, attn: Gowri Krishna. Please include "Land Use Staff Attorney" in the subject line. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and must be received by **August 15, 2016**.