

**EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS ELDER JUSTICE PROGRAM FELLOW 2020-2022:
HOMEOWNER PROTECTION**

CLASSIFICATION: Law Fellow (Union)	SALARY: \$58,500
DEPARTMENT: Legal	FLSA STATUS: Exempt
REPORTS TO: Directing Attorney	START DATE: July 1, 2020

Bet Tzedek seeks diverse and dynamic applicants for a 24-month, full-time attorney position as an Equal Justice Works (EJW) Fellow in our Elder Justice Program.

As the only legal aid organization offering elder abuse legal assistance in Los Angeles County, Bet Tzedek pioneered a holistic, wraparound legal services model designed to combat elder abuse and fraud more than 15 years ago. The EJW Fellow will address fraud and elder abuse that threatens homeownership and home equity, including fraud and abuse related to real estate transactions. Examples of such abuse may be: deed theft, home improvement scams (including green-energy improvements financed through the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE)), solar energy and home alarm system scams, creditors that use unsecured debts to force the sale of a home, or other emerging issues. The EJW Fellow will help stabilize local communities by helping lower-income seniors preserve their assets and financial independence while also preventing homelessness among older adults.

Bet Tzedek was competitively selected to implement EJW's Elder Justice Program (EJP). EJP is a national, professional fellowship program for attorneys, designed to increase access to legal assistance for older victims of crime. This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Award Number 2019-V3-GX-K033.

An EJW fellowship provides the opportunity to transform your passion for equal justice into a career. As a Fellow, you will join prestigious cohort of EJP attorneys hosted by legal services organizations across the United States. You will provide direct legal services to older victims of crime on civil legal issues arising from their victimization. In addition to providing direct legal services, Fellows will conduct outreach and training to legal and allied professionals on elder abuse and help increase multidisciplinary, coordinated responses with other agency partners, and law enforcement.

As a Fellow, you will develop experience and skills to be a leader in social justice while contributing to a broader community of practice servicing older victims. Fellows in the EJP cohort are required to actively participate in peer-to-peer learning and trainings delivered by EJW and training partners throughout the year. In addition, Fellows have individual access to on-demand technical assistance from subject matter experts and are required to participate in EJW Development Training in 2020 and 2021 (Oct/Nov) in Washington, D.C. (unless held remotely).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Provide victim-centered, trauma-informed, and language accessible direct legal services, including legal screening, advice, brief services, and direct representation, to older victims of crime to address fraud and elder abuse that threatens homeownership and home equity throughout Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on serving rural and other underserved communities.
- Develop, plan, and conduct community education and outreach presentations to seniors about home equity protection, particularly seniors from rural and other traditionally underserved communities, such as seniors living with disabilities, senior women, immigrant seniors, and seniors from communities of color.
- Develop, plan, and conduct trainings for professionals and pro bono attorneys to identify and address elder abuse and fraud related to homeownership.
- Conduct ongoing needs assessment, supported by data collection and tracking, to ensure that Bet Tzedek is providing the most-needed legal services to older homeowners efficiently and effectively.
- Develop toolkits and self-help materials.
- Travel to various locations throughout Los Angeles County to conduct presentations and trainings, and to provide legal services. Alternatively, if travel is not possible due to ongoing COVID-19 or similar restrictions, conduct presentations and trainings, and provide legal services via remote technology including video conference.
- Build and strengthen key stakeholder relationships in furtherance of the fellowship objectives.
- Work with Bet Tzedek staff, pro bono attorneys, in-house volunteers, law enforcement, and other government agencies, and other external service providers to address client needs.
- Communicate effectively with partner organizations, stakeholders, and the media about project work.
- Perform effective case management and grant compliance (opening, coding, entry of case time, case reviews, etc.).
- Engage in peer-to-peer learning as part of the EJW EJP Cohort.
- Actively contribute to and participate in EJP activities, including resource exchanges, mandatory webinars and conference calls, and trainings.
- Demonstrate leadership as an EJW fellow.
- Contribute to required programmatic reporting and overall program evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Active member of the California State Bar in good standing, or licensed in another state and eligible to practice under CRC Rule 9.45 (Registered Legal Services Attorneys) (required);
- Demonstrated commitment to Bet Tzedek's mission (required);
- Strong written and oral communication, time management, interpersonal, leadership, and organizational skills (required);
- An ability to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary setting to facilitate a coordinated community response and provide holistic services to clients (required);
- An ability to engage in significant travel throughout Los Angeles County, including where access to public transportation may be limited (required);

- An ability to lift 25 to 50 pounds regularly, respond quickly to sounds, and move safely over uneven terrain or in confined spaces (required);
- Previous legal services experience, including civil legal aid, law school clinics, and internships (preferred);
- Experience in elder abuse, consumer rights, debtors' rights, home equity/title fraud, elder financial abuse, and/or mortgage foreclosure defense (preferred); and
- Spanish-language fluency or high-proficiency (preferred).

NOTE: The Fellow must commit to fulfilling the twenty-four month fellowship and will sign a Fellowship Agreement with Equal Justice Works.

SALARY

The Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program attorney will receive an annualized salary of \$58,500 and health insurance and other benefits through Bet Tzedek.

HOW TO APPLY

- Email letter of interest and resume to bettzedek.OF.616@applynow.io (Subject: Elder Justice Homeowner Protection Fellow).
- Application deadline: June 15, 2020

To best serve our community Bet Tzedek seeks a diverse staff with cultural competency reflecting our client populations. We strongly encourage candidates from traditionally underrepresented communities and historically oppressed groups to apply.