

# **Bet Tzedek Legal Services**

## **2020 Post-Graduate Public Interest Fellowship Sponsorship**

### **Employment Rights Project**

#### **ABOUT BET TZEDEK**

Bet Tzedek sets the standard for innovation in public interest law and is one of the top legal agencies in the country providing both direct services and impact litigation assistance to Los Angeles' most vulnerable populations. Bet Tzedek's pioneering projects combine direct legal representation with powerful outreach, education, and legislative advocacy. Our leadership is a dynamic coalition between the public, private and non-profit sectors delivering innovative approaches to address root causes of poverty and exploitation. Our legal expertise and capacity to effect positive, sustainable social change continues to garner national attention.

#### **ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS PROJECT**

Bet Tzedek's Employment Rights Project represents low-income workers and trafficking victims in litigation challenging a wide variety of employment abuses, including wage theft, discrimination, and sexual harassment. The ERP also engages in community education, legislative and policy advocacy, and impact litigation. Clients are primarily monolingual Spanish-speakers, many of whom are undocumented, who work in Los Angeles's underground economy.

#### **FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION**

The ERP seeks to sponsor a post-graduate candidate, preferably for a two-year period, for an externally-funded fellowship, beginning in September 2020. The fellow will represent individuals and client groups before the California Labor Commissioner, Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), and in state and federal courts. The fellow will also work with community partners to provide outreach and education to low-income workers, as well as support to workplace organizing efforts in low-income workplaces. Bet Tzedek will assist in the preparation of fellowship applications to funders as needed.

Potential Projects: We welcome any other proposals that support the ERP's work and our staff will work with candidates to develop their proposals for submission. However, the ERP has identified the following project ideas, which have arisen out of identified needs in our client community.

- Challenging employment abuses of exotic dancers and other adult entertainers who have been misclassified as independent contractors and denied wages and other workplace protections.
- Providing representation for undocumented workers experiencing unfair retaliation and discrimination because of their immigration status and/or national origin.
- Developing and implementing a legal services clinic for domestic workers in partnership with community organizers; representing domestic workers to recover unpaid wages.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Law school graduate
- Spanish language proficiency (preferred but not required)
- Membership to California bar (preferred but not required)
- Demonstrated commitment to serving low-income and immigrant workers

**To Apply:** Please contact Alisa Shudofsky, Director of Pro Bono Programs, at [ashudofsky@bettzedek.org](mailto:ashudofsky@bettzedek.org).