

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES 2020 POST-GRADUATE PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP POSTING TRANSGENDER MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

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.

SUMMARY

Bet Tzedek is seeking to sponsor a candidate for a 2020 post-graduate public service fellowship to develop an insurance appeals project with our Transgender Medical-Legal Partnership (Trans MLP). Bet Tzedek is interested in applicants who intend to apply for external funding, preferably for a two-year period; we will assist in developing the fellowship proposal and help prepare fellowship applications as needed. Through the Trans MLP, advocates use legal and policy tools to address social determinants of health for transgender and gender nonconforming individuals in Southern California. Advocates provide assistance to individuals with health-harming legal needs to positively impact individual and public health. In partnership with the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Transgender Health Program, Bet Tzedek attorneys fight harassment and discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; appeal insurance coverage denials for medically-necessary care; and prepare petitions for legal name and gender marker changes. To support individuals in updating identity documents that match their identities, Bet Tzedek also provides free monthly legal name and gender marker change clinics to assist with petitions and fee waiver applications.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Under the supervision of Bet Tzedek staff, the Fellow will develop the Insurance Appeals Project, including:

- Conduct in-depth intake interviews with potential clients to determine legal needs
- Prepare appeals, grievances, and Independent Medical Review applications
- Draft legal memoranda on novel theories to challenge insurance coverage denials
- Determine trends by mapping insurer, payor, plan, administrator, and basis of denial
- Recommend potential policy fixes to address identified trends
- Conduct program outreach to the legal community and community-based organizations
- Present *Know Your Rights* presentations to community members

QUALIFICATIONS

- Spanish language proficiency (preferred but not required)
- Familiarity with trans and gender nonconforming community (preferred but not required)
- Demonstrated patience, compassion, respect, and commitment to serving low-income community members
- Ability to work with volunteer attorneys and students

To Apply: Please contact Alisa Shudofsky, Director of Pro Bono Programs, at ashudofsky@bettzedek.org.