



## Poverty Law Attorney – Avery/ Madison/ Mitchell/ Yancey

### Job Description

Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) is a community-based non-profit legal aid agency governed by a local Board of Directors. PLS has an annual budget of \$7.5 million from a multitude of funding sources. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina (WNC), Pisgah Legal Services provides free civil legal assistance to low-income people in WNC. The organization currently has offices in Asheville, Brevard, Burnsville, Hendersonville, Highlands-Cashiers, Marshall, Newland, and Rutherfordton. With a dedicated staff of 91, including thirty-six attorneys plus program staff, and an active group of 300 volunteer attorneys, the program provides free services to more than 20,000 people per year to meet their basic needs, primarily in the poverty law areas of housing, public benefits, domestic violence prevention, health care, immigration, and consumer law.

PLS is seeking a full-time N.C. licensed attorney to handle poverty law cases in Avery, Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Legal aid experience preferred.

Passion for promoting justice and overcoming barriers facing low-income people, being a creative and zealous staff member and a team-player, and a demonstrated commitment to achieving lasting results for clients and low-income communities are all important. By ensuring that the lowest-income people in Western North Carolina have access to holistic services we will increase opportunities for positive outcomes at the individual and community levels.

### **Responsibilities**

- Commitment to PLS' mission, values and vision.
- Represent and advise clients in judicial and administrative hearings in landlord/tenant, consumer, public benefits, domestic violence, community economic development and other poverty law areas as needed.
- Availability to work in rural locations and attend court in Avery, Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.
- Conduct client interviews with trauma-informed approach; advise and represent clients in Small Claims, District and Superior courts or administrative proceedings as appropriate. (This may include representation, preparation for self-representation, obtaining continuances for assessment, and referring cases to other PLS staff attorneys.)
- Document all work in Legal Server case management software.
- Organize and conduct outreach and educational presentations.
- Establish branch office(s) within service area.
- Develop and maintain relationships with communities and other non-profit agencies, government officials, government employees, community leaders and others.
- Travel within our service area and also to meetings or conferences in other parts of NC.

- Adhere to program priorities and case handling policies, procedures and standards of practice, as well as the highest professional and ethical standards.
- Keep abreast of developments in the law and disseminate information to staff, volunteer attorneys and the public.
- Work with volunteers and Development Team as needed.

### **Qualifications**

- N.C. licensed attorney
- Demonstrated commitment to serving low-income people and communities.
- Demonstrated skills at socio-economic and cultural sensitivity and the realization and sensitivity to work with someone who is angry, upset, or ill persons.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with teams and independently.
- Fluency in Spanish would be an asset.

### **Salary/ Benefits**

Salary ranges from \$50,310 – \$95,434 depending on experience. Excellent fringe benefits, including 401(k) retirement plan, as well as life, health, and disability insurance.

### **To Apply**

E-mail resumé and cover letter describing relevant experience to [employment@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:employment@pisgahlegal.org). PLS invites all applicants to include in their cover letter a statement about how your unique background and/or experiences might contribute to the diversity, cultural vitality, and perspective of our staff and legal services practice.

*Pisgah Legal Services is committed to creating a diverse work environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.*