

Job Title

Intern - New York State Courts Access to Justice Program, Assigned Counsel Project Internship Program

Description

The ACP Pilot Project Internship seeks dedicated and responsible law students interested in assessing the legal needs of vulnerable seniors at risk for eviction. Volunteers will meet with seniors in Court, complete evaluations, and issue spot in formulating a legal assessment of the senior's case for the Supervising Judge to consider in triaging for the ACP Program. The screening and assessment process will be performed under the supervision of a Court Attorney.

The Assigned Counsel Project (ACP) provides eligible seniors with an attorney and a social worker or a social work intern who work as a team to help seniors solve their Housing Court cases. Seniors must be sixty years of age or older, have an identifiable social service need, and a pending Housing Court case in order to be eligible for the program. Such seniors could be facing eviction due to either nonpayment of rent or holdover allegations. Other eligible seniors include those trying to evict a roommate whom they believe may hurt them or does not want to leave or an owner trying to evict a tenant.

Major Duties

- Conduct intake for the senior
- Identify defenses and/or counterclaims
- Identify any social service needs
- Draft legal assessment of the case
- Inform senior about places to go for further assistance in their proceeding, and,
- Perform other duties as required.

Position Requirements

- Current law student (1L, 2L, or 3L) with strong interest in housing law, social work, and access to justice issues;
- Sensitivity to the population being served;
- Ability to work and interact professionally and independently.

Terms of Internship

- The court system offers training, and court staff provides support and guidance to all volunteers during their service.
- To participate in the Program, prospective volunteers must first come in for an interview. Once they successfully interview, they must complete a training, which will focus on residential landlord/tenant law, social service needs, and the ACP screening process.
- Volunteers can participate in the Program in exchange for a volunteer service commitment to be completed between February and May 2015. Volunteers will sign up to serve during morning hours from 10:00AM-1:00PM Mondays through Fridays, or afternoon hours from 2:30PM-4:30PM Mondays through Thursdays in the **Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan) and Queens County** Housing Courts.

How to Apply

Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to Yacine Barry-Wun, Esq. **on or before January 16, 2015** at: ACPInternship@nycourts.gov

Please note the following timeline: interviews will take place between January 12 and January 23, 2015. The training sessions will be held late January.