



# LOUISIANA FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

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### **Eviction Defense Project Attorney** **(Southwest Louisiana)**

The Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC) seeks an attorney to lead an expansion of LaFHAC's Eviction Defense Project in Southwest Louisiana.

#### **About LaFHAC:**

LaFHAC is a non-profit organization that seeks to eradicate housing discrimination, an illegal and divisive force that perpetuates poverty and segregation, and limits opportunity. LaFHAC was established in 1995 and is the only full-service fair housing advocacy organization in Louisiana. LaFHAC addresses housing discrimination by 1) educating housing consumers and providers about their rights and responsibilities to proactively prevent violations of the Fair Housing Act; 2) investigating fair housing violations; 3) challenging discriminatory housing practices and policies through litigation; 4) advocating for new policies that promote equitable housing; and 5) counseling homeowners facing foreclosure.

#### **Project Description:**

The Eviction Defense Project Attorney will join LaFHAC's staff from July 2021 through July 2022. The Project attorney will lead LaFHAC's eviction defense work in Southwest Louisiana, focused solely on eviction defense in Allen, Beauregard, Evangeline, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, and Lafayette Parishes. The attorney will work closely with the local LSC-funded legal aid organization, Acadiana Legal Services, to identify the populations that are most likely to be underserved, as well as to provide and be a source for referrals of clients who fall outside of legal aid's service guidelines. Additionally, the client will work directly with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide and receive cross referrals of clients facing both food insecurity and housing insecurity.



The Project attorney will appear regularly, in person, in eviction court to defend tenants facing eviction. Additionally, the attorney will table 1-2 times a week in the Lafayette Parish courts to assist tenants who appear for their eviction hearings without having already secured representation.

Additionally, the Project attorney will be responsible for serving as LaFHAC's liaison to locally-based coalitions that are working to protect tenants from eviction, as well as strategizing about how to ensure that court conditions are safe. The Project attorney will also conduct outreach and share information with community members as needed, in addition to planning and identifying outreach events and opportunities. The Project attorney, in coordination with other legal services providers and the Eviction Defense Attorney for New Orleans, will make policy recommendations to affinity groups and legislators on systemic changes to improve outcomes for tenants.

Until conditions are safe, LaFHAC staff continues to work remotely, and as it relates to case work up or other office tasks, the eviction defense attorney will work remotely as well. However, please note that while some hearings may take place virtually, the attorney will be required to make **in-person court appearances** when necessary. When it is deemed safe to return to the office, the Project attorney will have a physical office space in Acadiana Legal Services' Lafayette office. Occasionally, the Project Attorney may also be required to travel to New Orleans for supervisory check-in meetings.

**Qualifications:**

LaFHAC seeks an attorney with experience in housing and ideally eviction defense. The ideal candidate should have a passion for civil rights advocacy, as well as exceptional client interaction, time management, and oral advocacy skills. **Current ability to practice law in Louisiana is required.** Given the immediate need, we are unable to accept unlicensed or license-pending applicants.

LaFHAC is an equal opportunity employer. LaFHAC values diversity and inclusion in the workplace because it enhances the work we do, reflects the communities we serve, and embodies the values we further and defend. Candidates of all backgrounds are welcome.

**Compensation:**

The salary is \$65,000. LaFHAC's benefits include 100% employer-paid medical insurance with available dental and vision coverage; flex spending account; 401(k) with employer-matched contributions; paid vacation, and paid parental leave.

**How to Apply:** The position is open until filled. Please email a resume and cover letter explaining your interest in the position to [resumes@lafairhousing.org](mailto:resumes@lafairhousing.org) with the subject line "SW Louisiana Eviction Defense Project Attorney."