Empire Justice Center, a highly respected, statewide legal services organization, is seeking a dynamic appellate litigator with housing experience to help support a groundbreaking team to address eviction prevention and housing stability through systems change litigation and policy advocacy in Rochester, New York.

Rochester has the only access to counsel program in New York State outside of New York City. Empire Justice Center’s systems change approach will focus on high-impact, lasting improvements by providing holistic representation in collaboration with legal aid partners who are co-located in the Telesca Center for Justice. This is an opportunity to join a highly respected organization in improving housing policy and stability by appealing lower-level cases and cementing tenant protections across the state.

Empire Justice hires dedicated, determined, and passionate advocates to make a significant impact on the lives of low-income New Yorkers. We achieve our successes through a combination of direct legal representation, high-impact litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, and by providing training and technical assistance to other advocates who are working towards the same goals.

With offices in Rochester, Albany, Westchester County, and Long Island, our organization offers staff an exciting and dynamic working environment and a strong commitment to teamwork, diversity, and personal/professional development. This position is based in Rochester, NY with hybrid remote work options.

**Primary Responsibilities for the Housing Attorney:**

Empire Justice Center is a proud partner in the Tenant Defense Project, a groundbreaking initiative in the Rochester area to provide legal assistance to any tenant who is facing eviction. Our other legal services partner agencies in the Project are providing the direct legal services to tenants. The Housing Attorney will primarily draft and argue many of the appeals that arise from this program. The Housing Attorney will also co-counsel impact litigation and systemic change litigation brought by the Senior Housing Attorney.

Duties will include: conducting legal research, filing appeals, drafting appellate briefs, arguing appeals in front of appellate courts, and drafting research memoranda.

**Required Qualifications:**

- A J.D. and at least 2 years’ experience as a practicing attorney, including litigation experience
- Admission to the New York State Bar or out of state admission with eligibility for pro hac vice status
- Excellent legal research and writing skills
- Excellent oral, written and verbal communication
- Experience working with individuals from diverse backgrounds and treating clients with consideration and respect
- Proven interest in and commitment to advocacy for the legal rights of low-income and other vulnerable populations
Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with housing law
- Previous appellate experience

Salary and Benefits:

The top salary for this position is $64,500. Salary is commensurate with experience and based on the organization’s salary scale. Empire Justice Center offers a generous benefit package, including health insurance, life insurance, vacation, holiday and sick time. We are an organization that supports and encourages a work/life balance.

Empire Justice Center is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and desires a diverse and inclusive workforce. People of color, women, people who are disabled, and people who are LGBTQ+ are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY:

This position is available immediately. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and writing sample and to: employment@empirejustice.org.

Please include Housing Attorney: First and Last Name to the subject line of the email. No phone calls or hard copies please. Incomplete applications will not be considered.