



Greater Hartford Legal Aid

**GHLA INVITES FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS
FOR 2018 SINGER CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP**

Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), a non-profit law firm serving poor people, seeks to sponsor a highly qualified applicant in applying to the Connecticut Bar Foundation's Singer Connecticut Public Service Fellowship Program. This is the inaugural year of the Singer Fellowship program, which supports recent law graduates in working with Connecticut civil legal aid providers. There is a two-step application process. Those who are interested in the Singer Fellowship must first obtain a letter of commitment from a Singer Qualified Host Employer, such as GHLA. GHLA will accept applications for sponsorship through October 27, 2017. GHLA will provide a Commitment Letter to its successful candidate, for use in applying to the Connecticut Bar Foundation for the Singer Fellowship by December 1, 2017. For more on the Singer Fellowship, visit <https://www.ctbarfdn.org/Singer>.

GHLA's mission is to achieve equal justice for poor people, to work with clients to promote social justice, and to address the effects and root causes of poverty. GHLA attorneys work in a wide range of priority practice areas, including family violence, immigration relief for victims of family or sexual violence, employment, reentry, public benefits, housing, education, and elder law. We employ a collaborative, team-based approach whenever possible and utilize a wide range of advocacy tools. We practice in state and federal courts, handling trial-level matters and appeals, and before state and federal agencies. We advocate on policy issues with government agencies and the General Assembly. Our office is located in the State's Capitol. We serve a diverse group of clients including immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, persons with disabilities, and communities of color.

GHLA's work is grounded in advocating for individual clients and families, and we also pursue systemic and impact relief as appropriate. GHLA has litigated a number of important federal class actions, including *Carr v. Wilson-Coker* (access to dental care for children on Medicaid) and *Raymond v. Rowland* (accommodations for public benefits recipients with disabilities). Our recent advocacy includes:

- A federal class action challenging delayed processing of Food Stamp applications, resulting in a settlement requiring DSS to meet a standard of 96% timely processing.
- A contempt motion in a class action in state court on behalf of displaced tenants denied relocation assistance in the City of Hartford, resulting in a judgment of \$6.25 million.
- An appeal in the Connecticut Supreme Court on behalf of a teen from Honduras denied a hearing in Connecticut state courts necessary to seek Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status.
- A statewide collaborative effort including legal services, community partners, state agencies, and the Governor's Office, to produce and distribute standby guardianship forms for immigrant parents seeking to plan for the safety of their children if they are detained or deported.

The successful applicant will work with GHLA attorneys to develop a proposed Singer Fellowship project that fits the Fellow's interests and enhances the agency's work in its priority areas. The Fellow will be supervised and supported by experienced attorneys.

We seek candidates with demonstrated commitment to public interest. The successful candidate will have participated in experiential learning, and have a strong academic record, including superior written and verbal communication skills. Preference will be given to candidates who are members of the Connecticut bar, such as attorneys working as judicial law clerks in 2017-18. Highly qualified 3Ls also may be considered. The ability to speak languages other than English is an advantage.

To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter stating your interest to GHLA's Litigation & Advocacy Director, Giovanna Shay, at gshay@ghla.org. Questions may be directed to Attorney Shay at 860-541-5061. Please submit applications by October 27, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.

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