



**Community Lawyer, Housing and Homelessness Focus / Clinical
Instructor Position
One Year Contract**

Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS) one of Legal Aid Ontario's network of community legal clinics providing poverty law services. PCLS is also a teaching clinic for Osgoode Hall Law School and law students are our primary caseworkers, supervised by PCLS staff. We serve low income clients in a culturally diverse community on the west side, particularly in the areas of housing and homelessness, immigration and migrant rights law, workers' rights issues, and social assistance, violence and health issues, in conjunction with community development work to address systemic issues of poverty and social exclusion.

PCLS seeks a skilled and experienced community lawyer to supervise students in primarily housing and homelessness law casework and to work for positive legal and social change in areas related to housing, income security and homelessness. We welcome applicants with at least three years of experience in the practice of housing law and experience in other clinic areas of law. Working in a team to supervise students and advance social justice, the lawyer will also be actively involved in community outreach, public legal education and law reform initiatives. The position in a one-year, full-time contract position.

Qualifications

- A lawyer in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario
- At least three years of experience of litigating housing and homelessness related issues.
- Strong legal and advocacy skills, written and oral communications
- Substantial experience representing tenants before the Landlord and Tenant Board and courts
- Experience practicing in other clinic-related areas of law
- Demonstrated commitment to working from an anti-oppression and social justice framework
- Experience working with a diverse range of clients from low income and marginalized groups, in particular clients with mental health challenges
- Demonstrative skills in mentoring and/or teaching
- Experience or ability to supervise students with full caseloads, meeting tight deadlines.
- Computer skills related to online casefile management systems and a digital practice

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- Demonstrated ability to work in a quick-paced environment requiring quick and appropriate judgment calls while supervising students with full caseloads. Ability to work under little supervision managing and serving sensitive community needs
- Appreciation of the nature and role of community organizing and systemic community work
- Ability to identify legal issues and community legal needs relating to the housing and homelessness related activities and to express and explain these to others
- Ability to diffuse tense situations and to assist people in crisis in a calming and helpful manner

Assets

- Familiarity with resources in the community
- Understanding of the Osgoode Intensive Program in Poverty Law Program
- Advanced online casefile management skills and related IT skills. Familiarity with the Legal Aid Ontario Clinic Information Management System (CIMS)
- Knowledge of a second language pertinent to serving the Parkdale-Swansea community
- Three years call to the Bar
- Experience in other community clinic areas of law

Compensation

Salary range: \$80,000-\$90,000 plus RRSP and health benefits package. Salary will be determined based on year of call, qualifications and experience.

Application

Please send your application by email, with “Community Lawyer Application” in the subject line, to the hiring committee at: hiring@parkdalelegal.org

Please apply with a resume, cover-letter and writing sample of up to five pages by 5:00 PM on Thursday March 4th, 2021. We regret that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

As an employer, PCLS is dedicated to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our clients and the communities we serve. This includes diversity in languages spoken, culture, race, sexual orientation and gender identity. We encourage applications from individuals from diverse, marginalized and racialized communities and backgrounds. PCLS promotes the principles of anti-oppression and adheres to the tenets of Ontario’s *Human Rights Code*. **Please advise if you have any accommodation needs regarding the submission of your application.**