



For economic and racial justice

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Job Announcement: November 5, 2019

Position Title: Director, Legal Impact Network

Reports to: Vice President of Advocacy

Supervises: Staff Attorney, Legal Impact Network; Legal Impact Network Program Associate

Location: Chicago, Illinois preferred

The Shriver Center on Poverty Law fights for economic and racial justice. Over the past 50 years, we have secured hundreds of law and policy victories with and for people experiencing economic instability in Illinois and across the country.

Everything we do is powered by communities most affected by poverty. We litigate, shape local policy, and train and convene multi-state networks of lawyers, community leaders, and activists to advance opportunity for all—not just the few.

Our country is rife with laws and policies that systematically disadvantage certain groups while advantaging others based on their race, gender, and other facets of their identities. We believe laws and policies—and the institutions that apply them—should be designed to support people. Together, we're turning this ideal into reality.

We are building a future where all people, families, and future generations have equal dignity, respect, and power under the law. Join the fight at povertylaw.org.

Position Overview: The Shriver Center on Poverty Law is seeking an experienced attorney to lead efforts to address poverty and advance racial justice nationally and in Illinois as Director of the Legal Impact Network. The Legal Impact Network (LIN) is a network of thirty-six state-based law and policy advocacy organizations throughout the country who address poverty and racism in their states through multi-strategy systemic advocacy (e.g., litigation, legislation, administrative rules, organizing). The members of LIN come from every type of state political environment and bring a rich diversity of expertise, experience and judgment about economic and racial justice on the ground in their states. The network is a place to collect and mine the knowledge, help and learn from each other, and explore areas for common work across multiple states. The Shriver Center convenes and organizes LIN members to share strategies and expertise and engage in collaborative advocacy around common threats and opportunities. LIN efforts are undertaken with an explicit racial justice and intersectional lens, and with an emphasis on community-driven advocacy. Current areas of focus in LIN, based upon member interest, include reform of the criminal legal system, protecting immigrant communities, consumer rights, and public benefits-related advocacy. The Director will work with other Legal Impact Network staff and the Shriver Center's advocacy team to advance efforts throughout the country and strengthen our Illinois advocacy with the wisdom and experience of our LIN partners.

Responsibilities:

- Provide overall strategic direction to LIN so that it is a value-add to its members and to the goals of economic and racial justice in the states and the country.
- Work closely with Shriver Center advocacy staff and Legal Impact Network members to develop, effectuate, and evaluate network efforts.
- Supervise and support the growth of two LIN staff members, including a LIN Staff Attorney and LIN Program Associate.
- Convene and organize LIN advocates, including through working groups, online forums, and in-person convenings.
- Identify, organize, and advance collaborative advocacy opportunities in the policy, administrative, and legal spheres, which may include participation in litigation.
- Represent the Shriver Center and Legal Impact Network in national coalitions, working groups, commissions, and task forces.
- Partner with the development team in fundraising efforts for the Legal Impact Network, including proposal preparation, budgeting, and reporting.
- Travel to conferences, convenings, and advocacy sites as needed.
- Participate in the internal planning, coordination, and administration of the Shriver Center through its committees and working groups.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Licensed to practice law.
- Experience with and demonstrated commitment to advocating on issues of poverty and racial justice and in partnership with impacted communities.
- Experience in legal services or other public interest law strongly preferred.
- Experience developing and leading multi-strategy advocacy including organizing, lobbying, litigation, administrative advocacy, and strategic communications.
- Experience in impact or legal service litigation a plus.
- Strong communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to travel as needed (est. 15%).

Salary/Benefits: This full-time exempt position offers a competitive annual salary and a comprehensive benefits package.

Opening/Closing Date: Open immediately; closed when filled.

Applications: Send resume, cover letter, references and a writing sample to hr@povertylaw.org and reference “LIN Director” in the subject line.

At the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, we know that a richly diverse mix of professionals makes organizations more effective. As such, we make demographic and experiential diversity a hallmark and priority of all our work.