



**Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services**

**Fellowship: Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Employment Opportunity**

**Legal Fellowship based at Greater Boston Legal Services, 197 Friend St.**

**Boston MA 02114**

Equal Justice Works and AmeriCorps have partnered to fund Employment Opportunity Legal Corps (EOLC) Reentry Legal Service Fellows across the country. Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) is a host site for one full-time fellow and now seeks to fill one open fellowship position at GBLS. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the fellowship must begin between September 1 and September 30, 2015 and last for one year. The Fellow will provide legal services to people in Boston and Suffolk County, Massachusetts who face barriers to employment following involvement in the criminal justice system. **There is a potential to renew for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year.**

Fellowship Responsibilities:

- Provide direct legal representation and assistance to low-income clients, including but not limited to: petitioning for criminal records remedies (dismissal of convictions, felony reductions, early termination of probation, recall of warrants, Certificate of Rehabilitation & Pardon, sealing of arrest and diversion records); correcting inaccurate public and private criminal record reports; enforcing federal and state consumer protections that mandate accurate and fair criminal history reporting in the commercial criminal background checks sold to private employers and landlords; advocate with the court and RMV for people charged with or convicted of offenses that affect their driver's licenses (and therefore their chance at employment); and advocate for clients trying to obtain or keep occupational license and/or a waiver to work in a licensed facility following contact with law enforcement
- Collaborate and coordinate with community organizations to connect clients with other services needed to remove barriers to employment, including employment training services and other legal services
- Perform community outreach and legal education regarding reentry legal services.
- Perform other administrative tasks related to AmeriCorps and Equal Justice Works program compliance
- Position is a one-year Fellowship, with a possible one year extension contingent upon continued AmeriCorps funding

**Qualifications:**

The ideal candidate will have the following:

- The ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks
- A demonstrated commitment to public interest work and strong desire to assist indigent clients
- Strong writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills

- The ability work collaboratively in a variety of contexts
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments
- Prior experience assisting low income clients in communities of color
- Prior experience representing indigent defendants in court on criminal cases
- Law school clinic, externship, summer or other relevant practice experience helping people seal criminal records in court and knowledge of Massachusetts CORI laws, EEOC guidelines and Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws related to criminal records.
- The ability to begin the fellowship no later than September 30, 2015.
- State bar membership or eligibility to practice in (state) under limited permission rule preferred (the latter is available as a result of bar membership in another state )

#### **Compensation:**

Up to \$44,250 which includes:

- \$24,200 AmeriCorps living allowance
- Up to \$20,000 in supplemental benefits for housing, loans, etc. (subject to allowable expenses)

Other Benefits Provided by GBLS HOST SITE:

- Health and dental insurance provided
- Position related travel reimbursement and bar dues provided
- Opportunities to participate in substantive training on CORI and a variety of related local and regional skills based and substantive trainings

Other Benefits and Professional Opportunities offered by AmeriCorps:

- \$5,730 AmeriCorps Legal Education Award upon successful completion of service
- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
- Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
- Childcare assistance (if income eligible)

#### **Application Instructions:**

Interested candidates should (follow typical practices at your site). For instance: Email a letter of interest and resume no later than September 1st, 2015 to: Sonia Marquez at [jobs@gbls.org](mailto:jobs@gbls.org). with subject line: AmeriCorps Fellowship – [Your Last Name]. The letter of interest should clearly refer to the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellowship position. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow is scheduled to begin the term of service no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Greater Boston Legal Services of Boston, MA is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and fosters an environment free of barriers and discriminatory practices. This program is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or religion.

Application Deadline: 9/1/2015, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.