



HOUSING ADVOCATE/NAVIGATOR – HOUSING PRACTICE

Queens Defenders is seeking a housing advocate/navigator to join a dedicated team of attorneys, paralegals, social workers, and legal assistants to provide 1,500 individuals facing eviction with free, high-quality legal and holistic representation in Queens Housing Court.

ABOUT QUEENS DEFENDERS

Founded in 1996, Queens Defenders is a leading Public Defender Organization providing high-quality, holistic representation for indigent community members in Queens, NY - New York City's most diverse borough and one of the most diverse locales in the world.

We give life to our mission through our core values: a commitment to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and professional environment; relentless in our pursuit of justice; unwavering in our commitment to excellence in the courtroom and in the community; client-centered and holistic in our representation, advocacy, and support services; respectful of the individuals with whom we interact.

At Queens Defenders, dedicated teams of criminal defense attorneys, immigration lawyers, housing attorneys, social workers, investigators, and client-support specialists come together to tirelessly champion justice for each and every client. Our highly skilled staff of 290, serves and positively impacts the lives of thousands of individuals annually through this collaborative and supportive approach.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate is an advocate with housing court or other relevant experience. The candidate will possess a demonstrable background in public interest work, and a commitment to the mission of Queens Defenders. We are seeking individuals with strong self-motivation, and excellent interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills. The housing advocate/navigator will work collaboratively with a team of attorneys, social workers, paralegals, and legal assistants. A commitment to producing high-quality work in a timely manner is essential.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist clients facing eviction with housing related issues: applying for and securing benefits, vouchers, and other entitlements, when necessary, work with client to identify and secure new affordable and permanent housing
- Liaise with realtors, landlords, community-based organizations and NYC agencies to help clients navigate through the apartment search, lease up, and move-in process
- Advocate on behalf of clients facing eviction with landlords for the best possible outcome
- Conduct client intake
- Coordinate client assistance with paralegals, social workers, and legal assistants
- Maintain a database dedicated to housing resources
- Communicate with clients regarding applications, cases, and housing searches
- Work collaboratively with a supervising attorney, social workers, paralegals, and housing advocates and navigators to ensure holistic, high-quality representation
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated commitment to working with low-income clients
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Knowledge of rules and regulations of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), accessing NYC subsidized housing vouchers, accessing affordable housing
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, including a managing a high volume of work , and remain calm under pressure.
- Ability to work with highly confidential and privileged information
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work in a collaborative, holistic team model
- Proficiency in languages other than English is desirable, but not required

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Queens Defenders values diversity and believes that a diverse staff is best placed to represent our borough, which derives its beauty from being one of the most diverse locales in the world. To best serve our clientele, model the place in which we practice, and to cultivate the best environment possible, we welcome applicants of diverse backgrounds, thoughts, perspectives, and experiences. We also provide all staff members with professional development and advancement opportunities because the more diverse and inclusive we are the more collaborative and supportive we are. For more information about our office generally, please visit our website at www.queensdefenders.org.

SALARY

\$60,000

BENEFITS

Queens Defenders believes in attracting and retaining exceptional talent committed to serving our clients. Benefits include: health insurance (including dental and vision insurance), FSA/HSA, generous paid time off, parental leave, disability and life insurance, and 401 (k) contributions.

HOW TO APPLY AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please submit a **cover letter** and **resume** to Kathleen Rende and Karan Kukreja, Co-Directors of Recruitment and Hiring at recruitment@queensdefenders.org. For more information, please visit our the “Careers” tab on our website: <https://queensdefenders.org/>.

As an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer, Queens Defenders prohibits discriminatory employment actions against and treatment of its employees and applicants for employment based on actual or perceived race or color, size (including bone structure, body size, height, shape, and weight), religion or creed, alienage or citizenship status, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity (one’s internal deeply-held sense of one’s gender which may be the same or different from one’s sex assigned at birth); gender expression (the representation of gender as expressed through, for example, one’s name, choice of pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice or body characteristics; gender expression may not conform to traditional gender-based stereotypes assigned to specific gender identities), disability, marital status, relationship and family structure (including domestic partnerships, polyamorous families and individuals, chosen family, platonic co-parents, and multigenerational families), genetic information or predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, arrest, or pre-employment conviction record, credit history, unemployment status, caregiver status, salary history, or any other characteristic protected by law.