Volunteer Position: Volunteer Attorney

Program Description:
Criminal records and past evictions can be significant barriers to opportunity for those living in poverty. The Records Project (part of KCBA's Volunteer Legal Services Program) specifically works with King County residents that are at 200% of the Federal Poverty Line or below.

The goal is to reduce barriers for employment and housing by assisting clients in two distinct but related areas:
1) Criminal – Vacating Criminal Convictions (VCR)
2) Civil – Obtaining Orders of Limited Dissemination on Past Evictions (OLD)

Why these areas of focus?
- As many as 1 in 4 Americans have a criminal record.
- More than 60% of formerly incarcerated individuals are unemployed within a year of their release. 87% of employers conduct background checks before hiring and a criminal record (even a non-felony record) can be a major barrier to employment.
- Unemployment, underemployment, and low wages relative to rent are frequent causes of homelessness. At the same time, individuals experiencing homelessness face obstacles to finding and maintaining employment.
- 52.3% of eviction filings in 2017 were for one month or less in rent. For many individuals, having just one eviction on their record can prevent them from finding safe and affordable housing.

All clients are pre-screened for legal eligibility before being placed with a volunteer attorney. Experience is not required, attorneys with no experience in either area of law are encouraged to apply.

Training and Support: Training materials and training CLEs are available for volunteers. We offer mentorship by the Records Project staff attorney to assist attorneys unfamiliar in this area of law.

Time Commitment: Attorneys are asked to accept at least two cases per year. The time required to complete a case will vary depending on the type and complexity. Both VCRs and OLDs typically take less than 20 hours per client, and can be accomplished in 1-2 months.

Qualifications:
- Must be licensed to practice law in Washington State
General Duties:

**Criminal** – Vacating Criminal Convictions (VCRs)
- Provide brief services including drafting motions and client declarations or other relevant documents
- Filing Motion to Vacate
- Communicating with the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
- Limited representation for clients scheduled for hearings on Motions to Vacate

**Civil** – Obtaining Orders of Limited Dissemination (OLDs)
- Provide brief services including drafting motions and client declarations or other relevant documents
- Filing Motion for Order of Limited Dissemination and appropriate Notices
- Communicating with the landlord’s attorney and King County Superior Court
- Limited representation for clients scheduled for hearings on Motions for OLDs

Benefits:
- Provide clients furthest from opportunity access to justice and legal aid
- Network within the King County legal community
- Attend free or low-cost CLEs, receive CLE credits for pro bono service
- Professional Liability Insurance provided by the KCBA

Apply online: [http://www.keba.org/pbs/volunteer_app.aspx](http://www.keba.org/pbs/volunteer_app.aspx)