

**Fair Share Housing Center
Staff Attorney
Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

Fair Share Housing Center, Inc. (FSHC) is seeking a mission-driven attorney with a commitment to racial and economic justice for the position of Staff Attorney.

In New Jersey and nationally, decades of racial discrimination and exclusionary public policies have shut African-American and Latinx families out of communities with outstanding schools and access to jobs and driven up rents and home prices beyond what many lower-income families can afford. These disparities in recent years have gained increased national attention due to organizing around racial justice and new research showing the multigenerational impacts of housing discrimination and exclusionary zoning.

FSHC has one of the strongest track records of any organization in the country in confronting these challenges head on. Our work has helped create over 70,000 homes affordable to lower-income families in communities that otherwise would have excluded them, with 50,000 more anticipated over the next decade.

The Staff Attorney will be a key player in a small, tight-knit team that works together to make sure that the promise of New Jersey's fair housing laws becomes reality for lower-income families, including families of color too often excluded from decent and affordable homes. This position is for a recent law school graduate or a lawyer with a few years of experience, and it will involve working with more experienced attorneys to review compliance with fair housing settlements and attending court hearings to ensure that commitments to produce affordable homes turn into reality. The position is an ideal one for a lawyer who wants to develop document review, writing, and litigation skills and offers room for growth in handling more complex court matters over time.

Organizational overview

FSHC is dedicated to dismantling decades of racial and economic discrimination in New Jersey and nationally that excludes people from the opportunity to reside in safe and decent housing and neighborhoods. FSHC challenges discrimination -- particularly as it affects people of color through systemic racism -- through local, state, and national policies on land use, housing, disaster recovery, and climate change.

FSHC has a proven track record dating back to 1975, when plaintiffs, attorneys, and others involved in the landmark Mount Laurel litigation formed FSHC. The doctrine has resulted in 150,000 low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans having a place to live in high-opportunity neighborhoods with good jobs and effective schools.

FSHC's work begins with the recognition that exclusionary land use policies are a form of structural racism; harm and disadvantage lower-income families, especially families of color; and perpetuate racial and economic segregation. FSHC, in alliance with strong

civil rights, religious, and housing allies, has responded to this hyper-segregation by enforcing the Mount Laurel doctrine and otherwise advocating for the development of affordable homes in higher opportunity New Jersey municipalities, especially for families. And FSHC has played a critical role in the national fight for fair housing, as counsel in the largest settlement in the 50-year history of the federal Fair Housing Act, which shifted over a half-billion dollars in federal disaster recovery funds to support critical needs of communities of color and as a key participant in shaping federal policies around climate change and disaster recovery, affirmatively furthering fair housing, disparate impact, and the low income housing tax credit program.

Position Responsibilities

The position will involve (all percentages approximate and may shift depending on needs):

- Working closely with a Senior Staff Attorney to review compliance with fair housing settlements and to offer comments and revisions to proposed municipal ordinances, policies, and plans to ensure that much-needed homes are actually built; work will also include frequent communication with opposing counsel, urban planners, and other people involved in cases to attempt to resolve issues as they arise (50%);
- Litigation including regularly participating in court hearings throughout New Jersey to implement fair housing plans and to pursue remedies when plans are not implemented (40%);
- Working as part of our team to shape overall strategy on fair housing compliance and enforcement and integrating legal work, community engagement, and public policy (10%).

Position Qualifications:

Qualified candidates must have:

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Comfort with frequent court appearances.
- Support for and understanding of the principles of our work.
- Ability to work independently with limited supervision.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Demonstrated experience with and interest in applying legal skills for work advancing racial and economic justice.
- The ability to travel within New Jersey during the workday (including the need to sometimes leave early or get back late from court appearances in other parts of the state), with occasional weekend and evening commitments.
- A law degree with membership in the New Jersey bar or ability to become a member of the New Jersey bar.

Preferred but not mandatory qualifications include:

- The ability to speak and write in Spanish.
- Experience with affordable housing and related areas (e.g. land use).

Physical demands: This job requires significant amounts of travel throughout New Jersey that is probably often easiest done via driving but which also could potentially be accomplished through public transportation, if driving is a challenge for the candidate. The job does not involve any other unusual physical demands.

Compensation

\$50,000-\$60,000 annually depending on a candidate's background and skills. FSHC provides an excellent benefits package, including high quality employer-paid medical and dental insurance, holiday/vacation/sick leave, paid family leave in accordance with the New Jersey state program, long-term disability insurance, retirement plan, and travel reimbursement.

Location

The position will be based at FSHC's offices in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, with much of the work outside the office. We are open to considering applicants who would be based in another part of New Jersey several days a week.

How to Apply

Fair Share Housing Center, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from people of color, women and people who identify as non-binary, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities.

Interested applicants should forward a cover letter, resume with references, and two writing samples (at least one of which is a legal writing sample) via e-mail to jobs@fairsharehousing.org as soon as possible. The writing samples should be the applicant's original work. Applications will be accepted and interviews conducted on a rolling basis until position filled.