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communitiesresist.org

LEGAL INTERNSHIP: AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION FOR TENANTS

Communities Resist (CoRe), a project of Southside United HDFC, seeks legal interns for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 to join a team combating gentrification, displacement, social disenfranchisement, and structural injustice through affirmative litigation before housing, state, and federal courts as well as administrative agencies.

CoRe is a community-based legal services organization for housing and community justice steeped in the 50-year tradition of community lawyering in Brooklyn. In these communities, we have spent years working together with neighborhood organizations and organizers in representing hundreds of tenants and tenant associations. Our representation has aimed to assist them with enforcing their right to social citizenship by struggling, resisting, and enduring against any attempts to deny working communities, largely of color, their place and their agency. CoRe has arisen out of a collective effort of these communities to ensure that this unique model continues unchanged.

The legal intern will be provided one-on-one supervision and will work in collaboration with a coalition of neighborhood organizations and their tenant and community organizers to preserve and expand affordable housing for lower income residents—in the face of rapid gentrification and tenant displacement throughout their neighborhoods. The internship involves assisting attorneys in representing low-income tenant associations confronting landlords harassing low-income residents and seeking to vacate buildings; individuals and families facing eviction; low-income tenant co-ops; community institutions facing closures or adverse actions due to extraordinary market pressures and neighborhood displacement; tenants in fair housing litigation; as well as community groups involved in struggles against pervasive housing discrimination, neighborhood segregation, and other issues critically affecting the future of their communities.

This position will involve assisting attorneys with representing such groups and individuals in Brooklyn suffering from harassment and displacement particularly due to prior or imminent local rezonings—especially, and initially, in the communities of Williamsburg, Bushwick, Greenpoint, East New York, Ridgewood, and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

The intern will work with attorneys to stop such pernicious practices in these communities by: bringing innovative, affirmative litigation to protect tenants' rights and their homes; defending

tenants in eviction proceedings; combating systemic housing discrimination through enforcement actions under fair housing laws; representing tenants in administrative proceedings; and providing advice and legal services to help improve conditions in their homes and buildings. The intern with the attorneys will collaborate with organizers from local community-based organizations and coalitions in order to conduct Know-Your-Rights housing workshops, clinics, and other educational efforts to ensure that tenants are aware of their protections under housing laws. The intern will also be expected to participate in neighborhood advocacy efforts to stop tenant harassment, displacement, and residential segregation; join in citywide dialogue around these issues; and contribute to CoRe's efforts to shape our housing advocacy and legal strategy so as to effectively respond to the ongoing needs of our communities.

Historically, CoRe's internship programs have been conducted in person at our offices in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Given uncertainties around public health over the coming months, in-person facilities may or may not be available for interns. Regardless of the availability of an in-person option, this internship may be done remotely.

To apply, forward a cover letter with your resume to:

Communities Resist
Attn: Hiring Committee
E-mail: apply@communitiesresist.org

Please put 'Fall 2021 Legal Internship' or 'Spring 2022 Legal Internship' in the subject line.