



TZEDEK DC
Legal Help for People in Debt

Position Announcement

Medical Debt Post-Law School Graduate Fellowship Sponsorship Opportunity

Tzedek DC is seeking a law student or recent law school graduate to sponsor for a post-graduate legal fellowship—such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Gallogly, or similar fellowship, or law school-funded fellowships—to start in fall 2022. The application will be in summer 2021.

About Tzedek DC

Tzedek DC's mission is to safeguard the legal rights of low-income DC residents dealing with often unjust, abusive, and illegal debt collection practices, as well as other consumer protection problems like credit reporting issues, identity theft, and predatory lending. Tzedek DC provides direct legal services for DC residents with debt issues, advocates for fairer policies nationally and in the District of Columbia and conducts community-based financial literacy programs. Launched in 2017 as a full-time public interest center at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, Tzedek DC's name is inspired by the ancient Hebrew teaching "*Tzedek, Tzedek tirdof*", i.e., "justice, justice you shall pursue." Tzedek DC was recognized as "one of the best" nonprofits in the Greater Washington region in the 2018-2021 editions of the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

Proposal

Americans today owe over \$75 million in overdue medical bills and over a third of American workers are in medical debt. This is an issue of racial justice: 10 percent of DC residents from communities of color have a medical debt in collections, more than triple the percentage for white DC residents.

Tzedek DC seeks a Fellow to partner with on a proposal to address the medical debt issue through three different means—direct legal services, policy reform, and community education. This should include representing individual households in and on the brink of poverty who are sued for medical debt, or who have a medical debt entry that is harming their credit report and engaging in systemic policy reform to mitigate systems that allow the crisis to persist.

Tzedek DC will partner with the selected candidate to develop application materials to fellowships.

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- A demonstrated commitment to public interest work, particularly for civil legal services, including but not limited to, consumer matters, debt matters, or issues relating to victims of crime



- A commitment to serving low-income clients
- Strong academic performance, including excellent research and writing skills
- Strong communication (written and oral), interpersonal, and organizational skills
- An ability to provide culturally competent legal assistance clients
- An ability to work collaboratively in a variety of contexts and with multiple organizations to facilitate comprehensive services to clients, but also an ability to work independently
- Law school clinic, externship, summer, or other relevant practice experience a plus
- A combination of organizational, substantive and relationship-building skills, flexibility, and a sense of humor to thrive in a fluid environment
- Spanish and/or Amharic skills preferred (but not required)

Application Instructions

The application should include:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. Name and contact information for two references
4. A relevant and substantive writing sample of original work product of no more than 5 pages in length

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Application materials and any questions should be directed by email only to: Margo Schwartz, Intake Specialist & Avodah Service Corps Fellow, Tzedek DC, ms@tzedekdc.org.

TZEDEK DC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

It is the policy of the Tzedek DC that no employee or applicant for employment or services will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, family responsibilities or family status, veteran's status, or any other basis prohibited by law, including the D.C. Human Rights Act and Language Access Act.