

Board of Directors



Benefits Law Center
Social Security Advocacy

Benefits Law Center (BLC) seeks dynamic board members to join our team and our mission, working with people who live with disabilities and are fighting for their economic and medical security. As champions of BLC’s core values of centering clients, dignity for all, and integrity in community, BLC board members create and maintain pathways for people who are personally connected to our mission to support the goals of our clients. The 4-13 person Board of Directors governs and supports BLC. Board members are BLC’s rowdiest champions, and are people who want to make a difference in the lives of low-income people in our community by ensuring access to economic and medical stability despite any physical or mental health barriers.

BLC is a specialty civil legal aid organization with a staff of ten people dedicated to economic justice. We further our mission through targeted community lawyering projects that help people obtain and maintain access to Social Security benefits. Under the Board's leadership, BLC has grown 300% in the past five years, and in 2022 projects total revenue of \$1 million. We are in the final year of our existing strategic plan which is focused on growing the capacity of BLC to deliver on our mission through (1) equity and inclusion, (2) increased stewardship and relationship building, (3) strengthening our communication strategies, and (4) growing our volunteer program. You can read more about our work in the [BLC Annual Report](#).

Responsibilities

GOVERNANCE:

The BLC Board of Directors is the governing body of BLC and is responsible for managing the affairs of the corporation. BLC operates its powers through resolutions and acts of the Board. The Board is responsible for setting overall priorities and ensuring that resources are used wisely in pursuit of the organization’s mission. The BLC board may delegate certain of its responsibilities to committees and officers of the Board, but it retains ultimate responsibility for BLC. To follow through on these responsibilities, the Board performs the following duties:

- Determining mission and purpose, overall strategies and priorities, and policies;
- Monitoring program performance and impact;
- Overseeing compliance with laws and regulations;
- Overseeing fulfillment of contractual obligations;
- Safeguarding assets from misuse, and ensuring maximum use of resources;
- Financial oversight; and
- Selecting/monitoring/evaluating/terminating the executive director

Attending regular monthly board meetings allows directors to govern BLC with care, in good faith, and in the interests of the corporation.



Responsibilities (continued)

SUPPORT

In addition to governing BLC, the board of directors also lends support to the organization in the following ways:

- Embrace and be a champion of the mission of BLC;
- Attend and participate in board meetings;
- Contribute to BLC's fundraising success in a personally significant way (such as making a financial contribution, volunteering at fundraising events, making business contacts for the organization, soliciting cash and non-cash contributions, etc.);
- Assist staff in raising funds;
- Act as ambassadors to the community on behalf of BLC and our clients;
- Assist with volunteer recruitment;
- Advise staff in areas of expertise, act as a sounding board for executive director and other executive staff; and
- Lending names and personal credibility to the organization.

When fulfilling these support-related functions, board members may be working with, and taking direction from, BLC staff members.



Qualifications

PASSION

It is critical for BLC board members to have passion for our mission to advocate with people who live with disabilities or experienced homelessness so that they may access justice and economic stability. This kind of passion is often born out of lived experience.

NETWORK

Board members are the rowdiest champions of BLC. Candidates must be willing to share the work of BLC with their networks of friends, family, community, and colleagues.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Board members contribute their own skills to BLC, including skills in communications, fundraising, relationship building, and HR.

IDEAS

Have a unique point-of-view as it relates to our mission, and the grit to dig in and get things done.

TIME

On average, Board members spend 5-6 hours per month ensuring the success and growth of BLC.

Commitment to diversity.



BLC is an anti-racist organization. Our commitment to inclusion is based in our belief that a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace culture enhances our ability to fulfill our mission. We strongly encourage applications from, and nominations of, people who have experienced living on a fixed income, engaging with Social Security, living with a disability, and/or unstable housing.

Opportunities are based upon individual capabilities and qualifications without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, veteran status or any other protected characteristic as established under law.

How to apply.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest to alex@benefitslawcenter.org or contact Alex Doolittle by telephone at 206-686-7252 x104. If you have questions, or believe you know someone who would be a good fit for the BLC Board of Directors, please do not hesitate to reach out!

