For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation’s guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Whether it’s ending mass incarceration, achieving full equality for the LGBT community, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach. With more than a million members, activists, and supporters, the ACLU is a nationwide organization that fights tirelessly in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., for the principle that every individual’s rights must be protected equally under the law, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability or national origin.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and HIV Project of the ACLU’s National Office in New York City is seeking to sponsor a candidate for fellowships to begin in the Fall of 2016.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1986, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) & HIV Project is a division of the national ACLU. It is part of the ACLU’s Center for Liberty, which encompasses the ACLU’s work on women’s rights, reproductive freedom, LGBT rights and the rights of people living with HIV, and freedom of religion and belief. The Center for Liberty is dedicated to the principle that we are all entitled to determine the course of our lives based on who we are and what we believe, free from unreasonable government constraint and baseless stereotypes.

The goal of the Project is the creation of a society in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and people with HIV enjoy the basic rights of equality, privacy, personal autonomy, and freedom of belief, expression and association. This means an America where people can live open and honest lives without fear of discrimination or abuse, and where everyone enjoys respect for their identities, relationships and families, and enjoys fair treatment in employment, schools, health care, housing and public places and programs.

The Project brings “impact” lawsuits in state and federal courts throughout the country -- cases designed to have a significant effect on the lives of LGBT people and those living with HIV. The Project’s legal strategies are built on the idea that fighting for civil rights means not only persuading judges but also ultimately changing the way people think. As the Project litigates for change, it implements targeted media, online and outreach campaigns to change public attitudes through education and to give people on the frontlines the tools they need to act.

As a part of the ACLU, the Project is in a unique position to work for justice for LGBT people and people living with HIV. The ACLU’s national network of affiliates broadens the Project’s reach into every locality and into the federal government. Today, the ACLU brings more LGBT cases and advocacy initiatives than any other national civil rights organization. The Project strives to ensure that the racial and economic diversity of the LGBT community is reflected in its work and continues to explore ways to make its efforts more responsive to the needs of people of color and people living in poverty. The Project’s work as part of the broad civil liberties agenda of the ACLU, exemplifies the notion that the LGBT community and the community of those living with HIV must work in concert with other social change movements in order to achieve a just society for all.

The LGBT & HIV Project is seeking to sponsor a candidate for fellowship funding through Skadden, Equal Justice Works and other programs to develop a proposal focusing on the rights of transgender individuals to enjoy meaningful access to health care, identification documents and single-sex spaces consistent with gender identity.
The candidate will work jointly with Project staff to apply for applicable fellowship programs. In this process the fellow will be responsible for preparing application materials with the support of Project staff and identifying potential sources of funding for the proposed fellowship. If selected, the fellow will be responsible for:

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identifying, preparing, and filing litigation on behalf of transgender individuals in health care, identification documents and cases regarding single sex spaces.
- Developing legislative strategies in support of affirmative protections for transgender individuals in federal, state and local law and opposing efforts to restrict or limit such protections.
- Developing public education tools for building awareness of transgender individuals and how existing law protects transgender individuals’ right to access health care, identification documents and single sex spaces consistent with gender identity.
- Researching prospects for new litigation, including both factual and legal claims.
- Supervising interns’ work in support of the above.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- J.D. degree, or expected law school graduation in the spring of 2016.
- Excellent research, writing, analytical and communication skills.
- Familiarity with legal issues impacting LGBT individuals and people living with HIV.
- Demonstrated commitment to issues affecting transgender communities.
- The ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with a wide range of people.
- Demonstrated commitment to civil liberties issues and the mission of the ACLU.

COMPENSATION

The ACLU offers a generous and comprehensive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with experience and within parameters of the ACLU compensation scale.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should send a cover letter explaining in detail the applicant’s interest in the project and fellowship, a resume, and a legal writing sample to: hrjobsLGBT@aclu.org -- Reference [LGBT-17/ACLU-LISTSRV] in the subject line.

Please note that this is not the general ACLU applicant email address. This email address is specific to LGBT & HIV Project postings. In order to ensure your application is received, please make certain it is sent to the correct e-mail address. You can expect to receive an automatic response that acknowledges the submission of application materials.

Alternatively, applications can be mailed to:

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
RE: [LGBT-17/ACLU-LISTSRV]
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Please indicate in your cover letter where you learned of this fellowship opportunity.

Applications must be received by August 5, 2015.
This job description provides a general but not comprehensive list of the essential responsibilities and qualifications required. It does not represent a contract of employment. The ACLU reserves the right to change the description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

The ACLU is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. The ACLU encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, and veteran status.

The ACLU undertakes affirmative action strategies in its recruitment and employment efforts to assure that persons with disabilities have full opportunities for employment in all positions.

We encourage applicants with disabilities who may need accommodations in the application process to contact: hrjobsincl@aclu.org. Correspondence sent to this email address that is not related to requests for accommodations will not be reviewed. Applicants should follow the instructions above regarding how to apply.

The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name “ACLU.”