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INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Opportunity Title: Affordable Housing and Special Projects Intern
Type: Intern, un-paid
Dept./Reports to: Michele Weinstat, General Council
& Tabber Benedict, Housing Advocacy Special Assistant
Location: Long Island City/Harlem/Remote
Tentative Schedule: Full Time (40 hours per week)
Duration: Summer June 1-Aug 15; Fall Sept 1-Dec 15; Spring Feb 1-May 15
Application Deadline: Summer ASAP; Fall application due July 1;
Spring application due Nov 15th

Background Summary:

The Fortune Society, Inc. (Fortune) has been working for over 54 years in service to our mission: to support successful reentry from incarceration and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities. The organization has evolved into one of the nation's preeminent reentry and justice-informed service organizations, providing formerly-incarcerated people with the skills and wrap-around services needed to break the cycle of crime and incarceration and to build productive lives in their communities. Fortune has a highly specialized skill set to serve this population, with over 54 years of experience serving formerly incarcerated individuals in New York City and over 20 years of experience managing supportive housing.

The organization's housing portfolio has significantly expanded, building on the organization's successful experience in providing permanent affordable and supportive housing. Fortune's housing portfolio for formerly incarcerated homeless individuals includes Fortune Academy ("the Castle"), our 93-bed emergency/transitional supportive housing facility; Castle Gardens, our 50-unit affordable/63-unit supportive housing facility, a forthcoming 57-unit supportive housing facility in the Bronx for formerly-incarcerated older adults 62+ years (Mandaela Community); a 38-bed emergency and transitional housing facility in East Harlem to respond to vulnerable New Yorkers released from incarceration due to COVID-19; an 82-unit affordable and supportive building in pre-development in East Harlem, and over 200 units of scattered-site housing across NYC.

We believe people deserve a second chance. As a part of our public policy work at the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy (the "DRCPP"), we advocate for other affordable housing providers to provide affordable housing for people who have criminal justice involvement, while lobbying for Fair Chance for Housing and related laws. This year, our team is undertaking fifteen to twenty investigations as well as advocacy for legislative change in collaboration with over 80 other like-minded organizations, including fair housing organizations and civil and human rights agencies. This work is at the forefront of criminal justice reform and the broader civil rights movement.

Position Summary: The Affordable Housing and Special Projects Interns will report to the General Counsel, assisting the DRCPP and Housing Advocate on impact litigation and investigations; the General Counsel on the full panoply of internal agency matters, including employment law, not-for-profit governance, and contract matters; and the V.P. of Housing Development and Risk Management on affordable housing development and compliance matters.

Internship Work:

The Interns will further The Fortune Society's (Fortune) efforts in:

- (i) the development and preservation of affordable/supportive housing;
- (ii) combating housing discrimination;
- (iii) advocacy for affordable housing outside of Fortune;
- (iv) ensuring a workplace environment free of harassment and discrimination;
- (v) compliance with COVID-related OSHA, DOL, and New York State laws and rules for employers; and
- (vi) other special projects.

The Interns will work with the Vice-President of Risk Management and Housing Development, the Housing Discrimination Team and the General Counsel on special projects, as necessary.

Interns will be expected to work 40 hours/week for 10 weeks. The internships typically begin [after Memorial Day and runs until the second week of August]. Specific dates will be provided before the start and can be flexible. Fortune offices are currently operating at 50% capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will make an assessment about whether the internship will be virtual or in person based on public health guidance.

Primary Responsibilities

Students will provide critically important support for Fortune's work through:

- Legal research and analysis that supports development of advocacy strategies and policy work;
- Policy research and analysis that identifies and evaluates approaches taken in jurisdictions across the country
- Research and analysis of issues to support special projects of the office of the General Counsel

Internship Requirements

- 1Ls and 2Ls welcome to apply -or- if working towards a JD
- Preference for students with a demonstrated interest in social justice advocacy, affordable housing, not-for-profit, and/or employment law issues;
- An interest and appreciation for the challenges faced by people who have criminal justice involvement, including the collateral consequences that last well beyond time spent in prison;
- Strong research and writing skills.

Competencies

Mission, Culture and Fit - Interns must embody the values and mission of the Fortune Society. This includes meeting our participants where they are in the re-entry process, demonstrating our values through compassion and understanding; and affirming that none of us should be measured against the worse things we have done. Second chances is the Fortune Way.

Cultural Competence - Interns must have the capacity to engage all of our staff, which consists of a diverse and inclusive group of people of varied backgrounds, with many having lived experience with the criminal justice system.

Travel Requirements: May require travel to Fortune's Long Island City Office periodically.

Physical Demands:

To perform an internship successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The responsibilities and requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, minimum education, training, experience and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the internship.

The Fortune Society is an Equal Opportunity Internship Provider. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal opportunities without discrimination because of criminal justice involvement, race, religion/creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, victim of domestic violence status or marital status.