

Staff Attorney – Native American Program

Santa Ana, New Mexico

New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) provides civil legal services to low-income New Mexicans for a variety of legal issues including domestic violence/family law, consumer protection, housing, and benefits. NMLA has locations throughout the state including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Gallup, Roswell, Silver City, Clovis, Hobbs, Las Vegas, Taos, and Santa Ana.

The Native American Program (“NAP”) seeks a staff attorney to represent people living on or near any of the 19 Pueblos and/or Mescalero Apache Nation. NAP conducts most of its representation within the Pueblo courts of New Mexico, in many different legal areas that are subject to tribal and/or federal Indian law. We are a small, tightknit Program currently consisting of a secretary, a paralegal, and three full-time staff attorneys.

For decades, NAP attorneys have provided, and continue to provide, legal services in several jurisdictions, which include many Pueblo Courts and New Mexico state courts. The services we offer range from full in-court representation to brief services, and/or advice and counsel. NAP attorneys work on a variety of civil legal issues including family law, tribal housing, tribal employment, public benefits, consumer, and education law. Additionally, NAP is unique in that we also provide criminal defense representation and represent Respondent parents in abuse and neglect matters in the Pueblo courts. NAP attorneys may also be appointed to serve as a Guardian ad Litem. As part of our work, NAP attorneys often analyze jurisdictional issues and due process issues under the Indian Civil Rights Act. In addition to legal representation, NAP conducts outreach and various legal trainings to Pueblo and tribal communities and community partners.

NAP Requirements:

- Admitted to practice in New Mexico, or licensed in another jurisdiction and able to practice in New Mexico under the Rule 15-301.2 NMRA legal services provider limited law license.
- If hired, will apply for admission to many Tribal Courts within NAPs service area.
- Effective written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to manage a significant caseload.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks.
- Willing and able to travel.

NAP Preferences:

- Nap strongly encourages tribally enrolled members to apply.
- Experience working on/with Native American legal issues and communities.
- At least three (3) years of legal practice, preferably in tribal or Pueblo Courts.
- At least two (2) years of legal experience in criminal defense cases, especially those in tribal or Pueblo Courts.
- Proficiency in relevant Native American languages.

Applicants will be subject to a background search. Please do not let this deter you from applying. NMLA is committed to a strong workforce and recognizes that persons with marks on their record may qualify.

NMLA employees enjoy:

- Being unionized
- A great work environment
- Great benefits including generous leave
- Competitive salary

The position is part of a collective bargaining agreement. Pay is determined by years of experience and set by a union scale; [click here](#) to view the salary scale. NMLA provides comprehensive benefits, holiday and leave packages. For information about NMLA's generous benefits, and what it is like to work at NMLA [click here](#)

Provide a current resume and a cover letter that explains your interest in this position and the mission of NMLA by [clicking here](#) to apply. Your application will not be considered unless we receive both of these documents. As an alternative, you can email the applicant packet to jobs@nmlegalaid.org.

Salary: DOE, NMLA is an EEO Employer. Application Deadline: August 18, 2023 or until filled. Resumes will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Learn more about NAP here: <https://www.newmexicolegalaid.org/node/271/native-american-program>.