



Host Site: Legal Aid of Nebraska

Project: Rural Housing Justice Project Fellowship

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Description of Fellow Project:

The law student will work on Legal Aid of Nebraska's Housing Justice Project (HJP) serving rural counties located within our Lincoln office's service area. In rural areas of Nebraska, there exists a lack of trained, dedicated attorneys providing free civil legal services to those with housing issues. Housing instability can often lead to evictions and homelessness, and is tied to poor health, low performance at school and at work, degradation of the family unit, and overall decreased community security. Under the supervision of an attorney, the law student will: 1) conduct client intake and interviews, conduct legal research and prepare written memorandums or briefs, drafting pleadings, and preparing for and attending court hearings; 2) assist HJP attorneys in conducting outreach and providing education to partners and community members in or serving rural communities; and 3) observe eviction proceedings in courts in various rural counties, providing information to HJP staff in order to assess and identify ways to address those challenges. With the RSLC fellow, Legal Aid of Nebraska expects to increase the number of clients provided legal assistance with housing issues in rural counties; increase the number of partnership and collaborations with entities assisting rural Nebraskans with housing issues; and, identify challenges in the civil justice system encountered by tenants facing eviction in rural counties and ways to address those challenges.

