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## JOB NOTICE

# PARALEGAL-ADVOCATE

Posted April 25, 2008: Open Until Filled

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, a non-profit agency that provides legal assistance in civil matters to low-income persons in the Charlotte area and Western North Carolina, seeks paralegal-advocate for its Consumer Protection and Legal Services for the Elderly Programs. Information about these programs is attached and more information about LSSP is on its web page, [www.lssp.org](http://www.lssp.org).

Paralegal advocates assist individual low-income individuals in state and federal courts and administrative agencies in a variety of areas, provide outreach and community legal education, participate in community events, give legal advice under the supervision of a licensed attorney, assist partner agencies in serving the needs of clients and engage in systemic advocacy projects and activities. The paralegal advocate will:

- Screen and interview applicants for assistance; review client eligibility and determine whether cases meet case acceptance criteria;
- Provide legal advice, counseling or other brief service during intake interview under the supervision of a licensed attorney;
- Maintain caseload of administrative cases in which direct paralegal representation is proper;
- Assist attorneys in specific cases including contact with client; interviewing witnesses; case investigation; legal research; drafting legal documents.

**Requires** college degree, paralegal certification or equivalent experience; commitment to working with low-income people; proficiency in oral and written communication; strong analytic ability; self-motivated and dependable. ***Proficiency in Spanish a plus.*** Salary \$26,000+ DOE; generous leave and benefits.

**To Apply** send (1) a detailed letter explaining your qualifications for and your interest in these specific positions and this organization, a description of your experience with low-income people, special interest in or qualifications for any LSSP program and other relevant information; (2) a resume; (3) writing sample; and (4) names and telephone numbers of three references to: Kenneth Schorr, Executive Director, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, by email to kens@lssp.org or by mail to 1431 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte, NC, 28204, email is preferred. Form letters and inquiries not containing this information will not be considered.

***Equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.***



## Legal Services of Southern Piedmont LSSP Consumer Protection Program

The Consumer Protection Program seeks to foster the financial stability of low income working families and elders and to preserve home ownership and home equity. We litigate predatory lending, foreclosure, unfair trade practices, unfair debt collection, auto fraud and other lending abuse cases, and also pursue legislative solutions aimed at preserving home ownership.

The program focuses on the following issues:

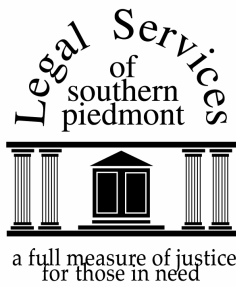
- Predatory mortgage lending including enforcement of North Carolina's new High Cost Home Loan statute and containment of mortgage broker abuses
- Defending foreclosures
- Loan servicing abuses and misapplication of payments that result in foreclosures against borrowers actually current in payments
- Home preservation for displaced workers
- Payday lending enforcement and eradication
- Mandatory Arbitration clauses in loan contracts purporting to terminate borrowers' access to courts
- Development of affordable housing stock for those seeking either home ownership or rental housing

This work involves enforcing existing law, testing new law and advocating for law reform at local, state and national levels. Strategies include litigation in all forums, legislative advocacy in coordination with other advocates, and community education for client groups and service providers.

### **CASE TYPES:**

Foreclosure Defense  
Plaintiff's Predatory Mortgage Loan Cases  
Mortgage Broker Fraud  
Truth in Lending

RESPA Violations  
Fraudulent "Workout" Entity  
Payday Lending  
Auto Fraud



## Legal Services of Southern Piedmont Legal Services for the Elderly

The LSSP Legal Services for the Elderly Program provides Elder Law services such as advance directives (simple wills, financial and health care powers of attorney and living wills), family law (grandchild custody and visitation, guardianship, kinship foster care and adoption), and general civil assistance for persons aged 60 and over, regardless of income. LSSP has a dedicated client intake number (704-334-0400) for LSE.

LSSP also provides services through its other programs to elderly clients who qualify under LSSP financial eligibility guidelines in areas such as bankruptcy, collection, mortgage foreclosures and reverse mortgages, home improvement contracts, other real property issues, and car dealers through the LSSP Consumer Protection, and Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance through the LSSP Support and Health Care Program.

### Case types

- Public Benefits
- Health Care
- Long-term care
- Nutrition
- LSSP provides assistance with advance directives through clinics and individual representation, including wills, powers of attorney, health care powers of attorney and living wills. LSSP provides assistance with simple wills but does not prepare wills that involve real, personal or intangible property of substantial value, or require significant estate planning or tax considerations.
- LSSP provides assistance to elderly individuals in cases involving age discrimination in housing, adoptions, defense of guardianship, and in selected cases within LSSP priorities for clients who are financially ineligible for LSSP assistance.
- Age Discrimination
- Housing
- Defense of guardianship

**Community Outreach.** LSSP makes presentations to senior groups and advocates at various locations, primarily at senior centers and nutrition sites. Each program includes a live legal education presentation by an attorney or paralegal and an opportunity for elderly persons to have individual appointments with the staff member for an intake interview or legal advice. Special outreach efforts focus on these individuals as well as those individuals with severe disabilities, older individuals who have limited English speaking ability and older individuals who have Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

LSE is funded in part by a grant of funds under the Older Americans Act from the Centralina Council of Governments.