Summary:
Immediate opening for a 24-month, full-time attorney position at Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Elder Justice Program.

MVLS has been competitively selected by Equal Justice Works as an implementing partner of Equal Justice Works’ Elder Justice Program (EJP). EJP is a national, professional fellowship program for attorneys designed to increase access to legal assistance for older victims of crime. This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Award Number 2019-V3-GX-K033.

An Equal Justice Works fellowship is an opportunity to transform your passion for equal justice into a career. As a Fellow, you will be part of a prestigious cohort of EJP attorneys hosted by legal services organizations across the United States. The Fellow will provide direct legal services to older victims of crime on civil legal issues arising from their victimization in areas such as financial exploitation, housing, consumer law, estate planning, estate administration and family law. In addition to providing direct legal services, Fellows will conduct outreach and training to legal and allied professionals on elder abuse and help increase multidisciplinary, coordinated responses.

As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, you will develop experience and skills to be a leader in social justice while contributing to a broader community of practice serving older victims. Fellows in the Elder Justice Program cohort are required to actively participate in peer-to-peer learning and trainings delivered by Equal Justice Works and training partners throughout the year. In addition, Fellows have individual access to on-demand technical assistance from subject matter experts and are required to participate in Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Trainings in 2020 and 2021 (Oct/Nov) in Washington DC.

The mission of MVLS is to provide quality legal services to Marylanders of limited means. Founded in 1981, MVLS is the largest pro bono legal services provider in the state. Our core pro bono program serves over 5,000 Marylanders of limited means annually. MVLS serves a significant number of older adults through both our general pro bono programs (family, housing, consumer), through targeted projects including Project Household, Advance Planning Project, and Tangled Title Project, and works in collaboration with various senior centers, agencies and Divisions of Aging throughout Maryland.
Job Responsibilities:

- Providing victim-centered direct legal services – legal screening, advice, brief service, direct representation to older victims of crime to address civil legal issues that arise from the victimization.
- Work with staff attorneys in the housing/consumer, human trafficking prevention, workforce development, tangled titled and low income tax controversy programs to integrate screening and coordinated strategies for assisting older victims of crime into all MVLS programs.
- Assist with placing cases with trained volunteer attorneys.
- Provide support and advice to volunteer attorneys, including answering questions, reviewing documents, assisting with drafting pleadings, conducting legal research on specific topics, attending court hearings and mediations with volunteer attorneys, and mentoring attorneys.
- Develop self-help materials for pro se litigants.
- Building key stakeholder relationships in furtherance of the fellowship objectives.
- Strategizing, planning and conducting training and outreach on elder abuse to legal and allied professionals.
- Engaging in peer-to-peer learning as part of the Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program Fellow cohort.
- Actively contributing to and participating in Elder Justice Program cohort activities (resource exchanges; mandatory webinars and conference calls; and in-person trainings including Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Trainings).
- Demonstrating leadership as an Equal Justice Works fellow.
- Contributing to required programmatic reporting and overall program evaluation.

Job Skills:

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Strong time management and organizational skills.
- Able to work with diverse client population and private attorneys and to collaborate with legal partners and other community organizations and agencies.
- Ability to identify and resolve problems quickly.
- Flexibility and creativity.
- Experience working with vulnerable populations
- Ability to work independently and with a team.

Professional Experience:
• J.D. from an accredited law school.
• Must be admitted to the Maryland Bar and in good standing. Admission to the Federal District Court in Maryland a plus.
• One year of legal experience preferred.
• Spanish language proficiency is desirable.
• Demonstrated commitment to public interest.
• Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office Suite and case management software.
• Outside practice of law is not permitted.

Please note Fellows must commit to fulfilling the twenty-four month fellowship and will sign a Fellowship Agreement with Equal Justice Works.

Compensation:
Salary - $50,000. Full-time exempt position. Generous benefits, including paid health insurance and participation in MVLS’s retirement plan.

How to Apply:

Please write “Equal Justice Fellow” in e-mail subject line and attach cover letter and resume in Microsoft Word format. Send email to mvls@mvlslaw.org.

Please no telephone calls.

Application deadline is June 10th, but applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

MVLS is an equal opportunity employer. MVLS does not discriminate against any applicant for employment or any employee because of such individual’s race, nationality, ethnicity, age, religion, disability status, sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender presentation, immigration status, or sexual orientation.