

Position description

Position title	Lawyer
Reports to	Managing Lawyer
Position type	Fixed term contract (2 years), with the possibility of extension subject to ongoing funding
Hours	Full-time
Salary Range	\$109,800 to \$114,774
Award & classification	Social Community Home Care & Disability Services (SCHADS) Award, Level 5.1-5.3
Location	118A Carlisle St, St Kilda + flexibility to work remotely

Position summary

As a Lawyer at Southside Justice, you'll help people facing housing insecurity, homelessness, family violence and financial hardship navigate complex legal issues and protect their rights.

With housing justice at the heart of the role, you'll combine direct client work, advocacy, outreach and law reform to deliver real impact, while being supported to grow your skills in a collaborative and values-driven team.

Key responsibilities

- **Legal advice, casework and representation:** Deliver high-quality legal advice, casework and representation, primarily in housing justice.
- **Client advocacy:** Advocate for clients in courts, tribunals and other forums, including appearing as a duty lawyer at the Specialist Family Violence Court at Moorabbin.
- **Outreach and community engagement:** Build strong relationships with community partners and deliver legal services through outreach locations, improving access to justice for people who may not otherwise seek legal assistance.
- **Community legal education:** Develop and deliver engaging legal education and training sessions for community members, partner organisations and frontline workers.
- **Law reform and strategic advocacy:** Identify systemic issues affecting clients and contribute to law reform, policy development and strategic advocacy initiatives that advance social justice outcomes.
- **Sector engagement and partnerships:** Represent Southside Justice at meetings, networks, working groups and conferences, strengthening partnerships and contributing to collaborative sector responses.
- **Volunteer support:** Support and mentor student volunteers, fostering a positive learning culture and high-quality service delivery.

- **Professional development and supervision:** Participate in supervision, reflective practice and ongoing professional development to maintain legal excellence and support personal wellbeing.

Organisational contribution: Actively contribute to organisational projects, continuous improvement initiatives and a positive, values-driven workplace culture.

Selection criteria

Qualifications

- Qualified lawyer with, or eligible to obtain, a Victorian practising certificate.

Essential skills & experience

- Demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality legal services or the capability to develop these skills in a supervised legal practice environment.
- Commitment to advancing the rights of people facing barriers to justice.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to build trust and engage effectively with clients from diverse backgrounds.
- Sound organisational skills and the ability to manage competing priorities.
- Good judgement, initiative and a willingness to learn and develop professionally.

Desirable skills & experience

- Unrestricted practising certificate
- Experience in tenancy law
- Experience in community legal centres, legal aid or other social justice settings.

Benefits & culture

- 5 weeks paid annual leave (17.5% leave loading), plus bonus leave in between Christmas and New Year
- 4% above the Award
- 16 weeks paid parental leave, plus paid superannuation for 12 months
- Salary packaging
- Hybrid and flexible working conditions
- With 100% of our team strongly agreeing that Southside Justice is a great place to work we can provide a culture of a values driven, inclusive and positive workplace.

Diversity & inclusion

We believe that a diverse organisation enhances our ability to serve our community and achieve our mission. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people identifying as LGBTQIA+, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and people with lived experience of disability.

Other relevant information

To be eligible to apply for this position you must have the right to work in Australia (i.e., be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or hold a valid work permit or visa).

All appointments are subject to reference and pre-employment checks. A preferred candidate with an adverse employment history or criminal record will not necessarily be precluded from employment with Southside Justice and each application will be considered on its merits.

To apply

To be considered for this role, please apply via our **HappyHR** link:

<https://www.happyhr.com/jobs/job-by-happyhr?id=1503>

Please ensure your application specifically addresses the **key selection criteria**.

Applications close on **9am on Monday 28 September 2026**. We are aiming to interview successful applicants between 6 and 8 October 2026.

If you would like to discuss this role in more detail, please contact Maie Gibney, Legal Director via email at maie@southsidejustice.org.au or 7037 3226.

We recognise that applicants may use AI tools to support their applications. However, we encourage you to ensure your application reflects your own voice, experience and personality. We're keen to understand what you bring to the role.