

PLSE Opens Search for Executive Director

MAY 21, 2019 – Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) announced today that it has begun a nationwide search for its next permanent Executive Director. The search is expected to be concluded before the end of the summer.

“This is the perfect time for our organization to welcome our next permanent Executive Director,” said Ryan Allen Hancock, Chair of PLSE’s Board of Directors. “Over the past eighteen months, we have attracted many new foundations and individuals as contributors, tripled our revenues, doubled the size of our staff, and developed a large and dynamically diverse Board of Directors who are passionate about our mission and engaged in our work. We are working with the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons to develop new pathways to pardons, expanding our Expungement Project to North Philadelphia, and training law firms and non-profits to provide neighborhood-based criminal record-clearing services – all in a city that is leading the nation in the depth, breadth and speed of its efforts to rethink and reform the criminal justice system. It’s a very exciting time for us.”

Founded in 2010, PLSE provides free legal representation to low income Philadelphians whose criminal records are holding them back from achieving the housing, jobs, and other benefits for which they are qualified, and from contributing their full potential as members of their families and communities. The services include seeking expungements in criminal court and pardons from the Governor, educating elected, business and other community leaders about the unintended damage caused by criminal history records, creating community-based Pardon Hubs, and empowering under-resourced communities to seek a greater voice and needed systemic reforms. PLSE is a recipient of the 2018-2019 Barra Award as an Exemplary Non-Profit Organization, and is recognized by the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey as providing services crucial to ending inter-generational poverty.

“Depending on how quickly our next Executive Director comes on board,” continued Hancock, “she or he will be able to participate in the hiring of a new attorney and paralegal, the development of three new Pardon Hubs that are already in process, and the creation of a strategic plan. This is an exceptional opportunity for an experienced public interest advocate to assume the leadership of an organization that is widely respected, well-financed, and rapidly expanding to meet a critical public need.”

PLSE will accept and review applications until the position is filled. It expects to begin interviewing candidates the week of June 12 and to have the new Executive Director in place by September 3. The current Interim Executive Director is expected to remain with PLSE as an independent contractor, assisting with fundraising and the development of the Pardon Project. More information on the position is available on the PLSE website www.plsephilly.org/EDsearch.

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