

November 1, 2022

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF ATTORNEY GOVERNMENT BENEFITS PROJECT

Mobilization for Justice (formerly MFY Legal Services), a non-profit legal services organization that provides a wide range of free civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers, is seeking a staff attorney to join its Government Benefits Project. The attorney will help low-income New Yorkers with public benefits problems, with a special focus on helping people obtain Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

MFJ's mission is to achieve justice for all. MFJ prioritizes the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised, or have disabilities as they struggle to overcome the effects of social injustice and systemic racism. We provide the highest-quality free, direct civil legal assistance, conduct community education, and build partnerships, engage in policy advocacy, and bring impact litigation. We assist more than 14,000 New Yorkers each year, benefitting over 24,000. MFJ is a 165+ person staff comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers, and support staff. It is a diverse, unionized, and collegial workplace where staff share the organization's mission to achieve social justice.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Representing clients at SSI and SSDI hearings at the Office of Hearings Operations (OHO) and other administrative hearings.
- Filing appeals with the SSA Appeals Council (AC) and in federal court.
- Drafting pre-hearing memos, AC briefs, and federal court briefs.
- Helping clients with a wide range of other government benefit problems, including public assistance for individuals and families, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, etc.
- Conducting client intakes in person, on the telephone, and at community-based organizations, sometimes in the evenings.
- Providing clients with advice, brief service, and direct representation.
- Assisting clients in completing relevant applications and forms.
- Advocating for clients with the Social Security Administration, Human Resources Administration, and other government offices.
- Conducting community outreach, trainings, and education.
- Creating and updating community educational and training materials.
- Identifying systemic problems, with a particular emphasis on disability justice problems, that MFJ can address through policy, advocacy and/or impact litigation.
- Working in coalition with advocacy groups on policy issues.
- Providing testimony on proposed legislation or other legislative body topics.
- Inputting and maintaining records in our case management system.

Requirements:

1. J.D. and admission to the New York State Bar.
2. Experience or demonstrated interest in working with people with disabilities.
3. Experience working on government benefits issues, particularly as related to SSI and SSDI benefits preferred.
4. Well-organized, capable of managing a diverse caseload, and demonstrated ability to balance multiple competing deadlines.
5. Fluency in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, French, or Bangla is a plus.
6. 2022 law graduates encouraged to apply; admission to the New York State Bar preferred.

Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement with excellent fringe benefits. The salary range for this position is \$72,296.69 to \$125,848.09.

Applicants should email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to recruitment@mfjlegal.org with “**Government Benefits Project Staff Attorney 2022**” in the subject line. We encourage all applicants to include in their cover letter a statement about how their background or experience might contribute to the diversity and perspective of our office. Please indicate where you saw this ad. Applications must be received by November 30, 2022. Early applications encouraged. No telephone calls please.

In compliance with New York City’s directives, MFJ requires all employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Accordingly, successful candidates must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and submit proof of vaccination prior to commencement of employment at MFJ.

For further information about MFJ, please go to www.mobilizationforjustice.org.

MFJ IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, gender, age, religion, national origin, citizen status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. BIPOC, women, people with disabilities, and LBGTQIA+ candidates are encouraged to apply.