

October 4, 2021

Job Announcement

Staff Attorney – Kinship Caregiver (Family) Law Project Mobilization for Justice

Mobilization for Justice (MFJ), 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 for its Kinship Caregiver Law Project. The Kinship Caregiver Law Project represents grandparents and other kinship caregivers raising children who are not their biological children in adoption, custody and guardianship proceedings. The project also assists these families in obtaining public benefits and immigration status, among other legal matters. The goal of the project is to help stabilize families, promote greater permanency for children, and prevent children from entering the foster care system. In addition to managing their own caseload, the attorney will work on updating and drafting project materials, as well as working on policy and state legislative initiatives.

MFJ's mission is to achieve social justice, prioritizing the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised or have disabilities. We do this by providing the highest quality direct civil legal assistance, conducting community education and building partnerships, engaging in policy advocacy, and bringing impact litigation. MFJ is a 140+ 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, prioritizing the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised or have disabilities.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct client intake and interviews in person, on the telephone, and at community-based organizations, sometimes in the evenings.
- Research legal issues and draft memoranda.
- Represent clients in Family Court in guardianship, custody and private placement adoption proceedings, and special immigrant juvenile status petitions.
- Provide advice and representation on public benefits to kinship caregivers.
- Provide advice and counsel to self-represented litigants at off-site clinics.
- Recruit, train, and mentor pro bono attorneys from law firms to represent clients with guardianship, custody, and private placement adoption matters.
- Conduct community outreach, trainings, and advocacy campaigns, sometimes in the evenings.
- Prepare comprehensive training manuals and participate in NYC Kincare Task Force.
- Maintain records in office database.

Requirements:

- Demonstrated interest in family law.
- At least one to three years' experience in family court matters.
- Admission to the NYS bar.
- Excellent research and writing skills.

- Ability to balance individual caseload, mentoring pro bono attorneys, and advocating for legislative or policy changes.
- Willingness to conduct clinics and trainings throughout the five boroughs of New York City, sometimes in the evening.
- Ability to work collaboratively yet independently.
- Spanish language skills a plus.

Salary: Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement with excellent fringe benefits.

Applicants should submit cover letter, resume and writing sample and three references to Montel Cherry, Deputy Director of Diversity Equity & Inclusion/Director of Litigation for Children's Rights, and transmit by e-mail to mcherry@mfjlegal.org by October 14, 2021. We encourage all applicants to include in their cover letter a statement about how your background or experience might contribute to the diversity and perspective of our office. Early applications are appreciated. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. No telephone inquiries please. Please indicate where you found this ad and include "**KCLP STAFF ATTORNEY**" in the subject line.

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

MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. BIPOC, women, people with disabilities, LGBT+ people are welcome and encouraged to apply.