

February 13, 2020

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. The staff attorney will work at MFJ's Manhattan office.

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 120+ 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 in the office and at community sites and courts, 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 a clinic on-site at Bronx Family Court
- Recruit, train and mentor pro bono attorneys from large 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
- Spanish or Chinese language skills a plus

Salary: Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.

Applicants should submit cover letter, resume and writing sample and three references to Kevin Cremin, Director of Litigation for Disability and Aging Rights, and transmit by e-mail to kcremin@mfjlegal.org by March 2, 2020. 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.
People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome and encouraged to apply.