



Job Announcement Staff Attorney – Representing People with Mental Illness in Civil Matters

MFY Legal Services, Inc. (MFY), a 49-year old nonprofit public interest law firm, has an opening for a staff attorney in its Mental Health Law Project to represent people with mental illness in civil legal matters. In this position, the attorney will be providing a full range of civil legal services to clients who have psychiatric disabilities. The Mental Health Law Project works in collaboration with mental health providers and social workers in inpatient and outpatient settings using a medical-legal partnership model. The primary emphasis is on eviction prevention, ensuring income stability including obtaining and maintaining government benefits and addressing barriers to employment, and access to healthcare. Affirmative outreach, advocacy, and litigation are encouraged on issues affecting the mental health community.

MFY's 45-person staff is comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers and support staff. It is a diverse, unionized, and collegial workplace. Staff caseloads balance advice and individual representation with law reform advocacy and litigation. MFY does not receive federal LSC funding. For more information, visit www.mfy.org.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct client intake, do research and writing, litigate all phases of cases including motions, trials and appeals.
- Represent people with mental illness in housing, supreme courts and federal courts and at administrative agencies.
- Conduct outreach to the community, and train mental health providers and community groups on substantive law matters and the rights of people with disabilities.
- Identify issues for impact litigation or policy initiatives.
- Advocate on issues of importance to the mental health community.
- Maintain records in office database.

Requirements:

1. Admission to NYS Bar.
2. 1-3 years experience in civil legal services, housing court, or general civil litigation in state or federal court.
3. Well organized and capable of managing a substantial caseload.
4. Commitment to working with people with mental illness.
5. Spanish or Chinese language skills a plus.

Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement depending on year of graduation with excellent fringe benefits.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to Mallory Curran, Supervising Attorney via e-mail to eperez@mfy.org with MHLP Staff Attorney in the subject line. Applications must be received by noon on Monday, April 23, 2012. Early applications are appreciated.

MFY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

April 9, 2012