

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

MFY Legal Services, Inc. (MFY), a 49-year old nonprofit law firm, has an opening in its Mental Health Law Project for a staff attorney to represent people with mental illness in civil legal matters. 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 mental health consumers. 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.

MFY's 50-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.
- Appear in housing, supreme 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 mental health consumers.
- Maintain records in office database.

Requirements:

1. Admission to NYS Bar.
2. 2-4 years experience in housing court.
3. Well organized and capable of managing a substantial caseload.
4. Interest in working with people with mental illness and identifying areas of unmet need.
5. Spanish language skills.

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

Applicants should send cover letter, resume and writing sample addressed to Mallory Curran, Supervising Attorney, via email to eperez@mfy.org with MHLP Staff Attorney in the subject line. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern on Monday, August 27, 2012. Early applications are appreciated. No phone calls, please. Due to the volume of résumés received for recent postings, we will respond only to applicants selected for interviews.

MFY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

August 21, 2012