

May 16, 2019
Job Announcement
Staff Attorney

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 represent people with mental health disabilities in civil legal matters. The staff attorney will work in MFJ's Mental Health Law Project where the primary emphasis is on eviction prevention, ensuring income stability, including obtaining and maintaining government benefits, including health benefits, and addressing barriers to employment. Outreach, advocacy, and litigation are encouraged to address problems affecting people with mental health 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.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting client intakes in person, on the telephone, or at off-site clinics, including clubhouses, outpatient clinics and hospitals.
- Conducting factual investigations, including site visits.
- Providing clients with advice, brief service and direct representation.
- Researching, writing, and litigating all phases of cases including pleadings, motions, discovery, briefs, hearings, trials and appeals.
- Appearing for clients in Housing Court, Supreme Court, Civil Court, Federal Court and administrative agencies, including NYCHA, HPD, DHCR, HRA, OTDA and Social Security.
- Identifying, developing, and commencing impact litigation or policy initiatives to address problems affecting people with mental health disabilities.
- Conducting community outreach and trainings.
- Training mental health providers on substantive law and the rights of people with disabilities.
- Legislative advocacy and lobbying on issues of importance to people with mental health disabilities.
- 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. Admission to NYS Bar. Well-organized and capable of managing a diverse caseload.
2. Experience or demonstrated interest in working with people with mental health disabilities, people with disabilities, veterans, seniors, or people who are homeless.
3. Two years of experience in housing court or working on government benefits issues preferred.
4. Fluency in Spanish sufficient to conduct intake interviews is strongly preferred.

Salary is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.

Applicants should provide a cover letter, resume and writing sample addressed to Kevin M. Cremin, Director of Litigation for Disability and Aging Rights, and transmitted by e-mail to kcremin@mfjlegal.org with “**Mental Health Law Project Spring 2019**” in the subject line. 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. Please indicate where you saw this ad. Applications must be received by Monday, June 3, 2019. Early applications encouraged. No telephone calls please.

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

MFJ IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome and encouraged to apply.