

August 21, 2014

**Job Announcement**  
**Staff Attorney – Kinship Caregiver Rights**

MFY Legal Services, Inc. (MFY), a non-profit legal services organization that provides a wide range of free civil legal services low-income New Yorkers, is seeking a staff attorney for its Kinship Caregiver Law Project to provide direct legal services and engage in policy advocacy on behalf of low-income families. The Project helps to stabilize families, promote children's security, and prevent children from entering the traditional foster care system by representing families in administrative proceedings, immigration hearings, Family Court and in litigation to challenge administrative actions. The attorney will also assist relatives in removing children from foster care placements with strangers and advocating for policy changes to promote family integrity. The attorney will be part of a team that works in coalition with advocacy groups city- and state-wide on policy issues; analyzes and provides testimony on proposed legislation; conducts trainings for lawyers, courthouse personnel, and community groups; and communicates regularly with elected officials and the media.

**Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**

- Conducting client intake; performing legal research; drafting legal memoranda, advocacy letters and other legal papers; and litigating all phases of cases including drafting pleadings, engaging in motion practice, conducting trials, writing and arguing appeals.
- Conducting extensive community outreach, training lawyers, community groups, and non-legal professionals on the rights of family members in the Family Courts, child welfare proceedings and related issues.
- Staffing off-site legal clinics.
- Identifying issues for impact litigation or policy initiatives, including white papers and legislative advocacy campaigns.
- Drafting white papers, presenting testimony, participating in and leading coalitions and advocacy campaigns related to family law and access to justice.
- Lobbying on issues of importance to our client population.
- Inputting and maintaining records in case management system.
- This position may require evening work with community-based partners.

**Requirements:**

- Admission to NYS Bar.
- Advanced legal research and writing skills.
- Proven ability to take initiative in addressing social justice issues as evidenced by at least one year of community organizing, coalition-building, policy advocacy and/or complex litigation.
- Demonstrated interest in poverty law, civil rights, family law, racial justice, and/or immigrant rights.
- Ability to balance conducting intake, handling individual cases, working on affirmative litigation, and advocating for legislative or policy changes.
- Fluency in Spanish strongly preferred.
- Prior experience handling Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases strongly preferred.

**Salary** is pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.

Applicants should include a cover letter, resume and writing sample (preferably one that reflects the applicant's relevant interests) in their submission. Applicants with fewer than three years of professional experience should include a law school transcript in their application. Complete applications should be addressed to Barbara Graves-Poller, Supervising Attorney, and transmitted by e-mail to [bgravespoller@mfy.org](mailto:bgravespoller@mfy.org) with "Kincare Staff Attorney" in the subject line.

For further information about MFY, please go to [www.mfy.org](http://www.mfy.org).

**MFY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**

People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome and encouraged to apply.