

September 1, 2011

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

MFY Legal Services, Inc. (MFY), a 48-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. These clients live in private apartments and various types of supportive housing. The primary emphasis is on preventing evictions and obtaining or preserving government benefits. Affirmative impact litigation is encouraged on issues affecting the mental health consumer community, as are community outreach and training to social workers and others who serve this 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](http://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 housing court or general civil litigation experience in state or federal court.
3. Well organized and capable of managing a substantial litigation docket.
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 submit cover letter, resume and writing sample to Jeanette Zelhof, Executive Director, and transmit by e-mail to [eperez@mfy.org](mailto:eperez@mfy.org).

**MFY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**