



Job Announcement:

STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION

The Children's Law Center (CLC) (Washington, DC) invites applications for a full-time Staff Attorney to represent children and caregivers in complex custody matters. CLC envisions a future for the District of Columbia in which every child has a safe home, a meaningful education and a healthy mind and body. We work toward this vision by providing comprehensive legal services to at-risk children and their families and using the knowledge we gain from representing our individual clients to advocate for changes in the law and its implementation.

The Children's Law Center's represents 1,000 children and caregivers each year in abuse and neglect, adoption, guardianship, custody, special education, health care and public benefits matters. The Children's Law Center is the largest civil legal services organization in the District of Columbia and the only one that provides comprehensive representation specifically for children.

Position Profile:

The Staff Attorney will primarily act as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* for children and teenagers in complex custody proceedings in D.C. Superior Court. S/he will also represent third-party caregivers in custody cases. The Staff Attorney will report to the Family Permanency Project Supervising Attorney.

The Staff Attorney will also work with the Family Permanency Project (FPP) Director to train and mentor pro bono attorneys who serve as pro bono guardians *ad litem* in custody cases.

Position Responsibilities include:

- Carry a full caseload, primarily serving as a guardian *ad litem* representing children's best interests in complex custody cases, but also representing adult caregivers in third party custody proceedings.
- Coordinate referrals from judges for pro bono guardians *ad litem*.
- Support pro bono attorneys through regular training sessions and mentoring.
- Staff CLC Helpline and perform telephone intakes.
- Participate in pro bono tabling events, fairs, and law firm outreach.
- Participate in outreach activities to community members.

Qualifications:

An ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- A demonstrated commitment to ensuring that at-risk children have safe homes, a meaningful education and a healthy mind and body;
- At least one year of litigation or clerkship experience;
- Ability to handle diverse caseload, serving as a guardian *ad litem* and as an adult caregiver's attorney in complex custody matters;
- DC Bar license or eligibility to waive into DC Bar;
- Experience working directly with low-income children or adults;
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent research and analytical skills;
- Demonstrated capacity to work independently;
- Demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively; and
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

CLC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, family responsibility, physical or mental disability, medical condition, status as a veteran, or any other category protected by applicable federal, state, or local law, except where a bona fide occupational qualification applies. Competitive salary structure and excellent benefits package.

Applications should include a cover letter, current resume, legal writing sample, and three references (at least two of which must be from a superior) and should be submitted to:

FPP Staff Attorney Search Committee
The Children's Law Center
616 H Street, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001
jobs@childrenslawcenter.org