



Justice. Community. Inclusion.

Disability Rights Connecticut

"Connecticut's protection and advocacy system"

846 Wethersfield Avenue Hartford,
CT 06114

LITIGATION ATTORNEY POSITION

Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) seeks an attorney with proven federal civil rights litigation experience to pursue justice and systemic change on behalf of individuals with disabilities in Connecticut. The position will work with DRCT attorneys, staff and community co-counsel to enforce the legal rights of DRCT's client community.

ABOUT DRCT

DRCT is the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) office for Connecticut, designated by the Governor to advocate, educate, investigate and pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies to advance and protect the civil rights of citizens with disabilities to participate equally and fully in all facets of community life in Connecticut. DRCT work uses this range of actions to protect and improve the lives of people with a variety of disabilities including intellectual, psychiatric and physical disabilities. Issues include access to and quality of treatment and support services, community inclusion, accessibility and reasonable accommodation, assistive technology, employment, housing, education, and voting.

As a P&A, DRCT has legal authority to access records and facilities in order to monitor and investigate complaints of abuse or neglect. DRCT is an independent nonprofit that receives categorical federal grants under a variety of federal laws.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The responsibilities of the person in this position include:

- Represent clients and classes of clients who are eligible for DRCT services. Develop and execute all phases of case strategies and activities in consultation with the Legal Director and co-counsel.
- Participate in developing and conducting class action and other strategically targeted litigation, in coordination with related advocacy strategies. Work in effective collaboration with counsel from other firms and organizations to make maximum use of combined resources to best serve DRCT clients.

Phone: (800) 842-7303 (toll-free in CT), (860) 297-4300 (voice) - www.disrightsct.org

- Support monitoring and investigation of facilities, schools and community programs. Support provision of information and short-term assistance to DRCT clients.
- Assist the Legal Director in supervising and training staff attorneys and advocates.
- Participate in outreach, community engagement, and training of individuals with disabilities and related organizations, with an emphasis on under-served populations.
- Represent the perspective of DRCT and people with disabilities on task forces, policy groups, coalitions, and similar bodies.
- Maintain accurate time records and client records.
- Perform tasks, as assigned, that further DRCT objectives.
- Travel throughout Connecticut and nationally as is necessary to perform assigned job tasks.

Minimum qualifications for this position include:

- Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school or other law school approved by the Connecticut Supreme Court
- Active membership in the Connecticut State Bar and the Bar of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut or an ability to gain admission to both within 12 months of employment.
- A minimum of four (4) years of litigation experience, including class action civil rights or disability law litigation.
- Demonstrated ability to take a lead role in case planning and litigation management.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct complex litigation in state and federal courts.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate succinctly and persuasively.
- Ability to work efficiently, independently and collaboratively.

Other Desirable Qualifications:

Demonstrated interest and commitment to public interest law (preferably in the area of disability rights).

Experience in a legal services, nonprofit or public interest environment.

Ability to communicate in ASL, Spanish, or other non-English language.

Experience as a person with a disability or as a member of a nondominant cultural group, or experience working with or living with persons with disabilities or within a nondominant cultural community.

DISCLAIMER

This position description serves as a general summary and overview of the major duties and responsibilities of the job. It is not intended to represent the entirety of the job nor is it intended to be all-inclusive. Management reserves the right to modify, or rescind, this position description at any time, with or without prior notice.

COMPENSATION

This position will earn a salary that is set according to a DRCT salary scale that is competitive with other nonprofit legal assistance organizations in Connecticut. DRCT also provides group health, vision and dental plans, life and disability insurance and a retirement plan.

TO APPLY

Deadline: Open until filled. Applications received by March 31, 2021 will be considered for a first round of interviews.

Applications must include: (a) a letter expressing your interest in the position, your qualifications, and how you might contribute to the future of DRCT; (b) a current resume including the names and contact information of three references; and (c) a legal writing sample.

Materials should be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Applications must be emailed to Mary Jane Keane, Office Manager at: maryjane.keane@disrightsct.org.

DRCT is a fair employment practices/equal opportunity/disability accessible employer committed to maintaining a diverse workplace. We value diversity of culture, disability and other life experiences and are an equal opportunity employer by choice. Qualified candidates from diverse personal, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. DRCT also complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities.

Job Type: Full-time