



POSITION OPENING – STAFF ATTORNEY

Little Rock, Arkansas –

Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc. (DRA) has an immediate opening for a full time Staff Attorney. DRA is the federally authorized and funded nonprofit organization serving as the Protection and Advocacy System (“P&A”) for persons with disabilities in Arkansas. DRA pursues administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of people with disabilities in Arkansas.

The Staff Attorney is a legal advocate for individuals with disabilities. This position will provide legal services and engage in individual and systemic advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities. This position requires travel throughout Arkansas. This position reports to the Director of Legal and Advocacy Services.

Responsibilities

1. Represent individual clients consistent with DRA’s priorities, objectives and selection criteria, including the development and implementation of all phases of case strategies and activities
2. Analyze and interpret federal and state laws, rulings and regulations to stay abreast of legal developments in disability law, and related fields
3. Analyze statutes, regulations, and agency policies/procedures and draft analysis
4. Provide technical assistance to outside attorneys and advocates regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities
5. Prepare and review reports, amicus briefs, articles and special projects, drafts legislation and proposed regulations
6. Prepare written materials and conduct activities for the education and training of individuals with disabilities, family members, community partners, professionals, DRA staff, members of the public, and others consistent with DRA’s annual priorities and objectives
7. Investigate and report on incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation
8. Cultivate and maintain relationships with subject area professionals and advocates, including state officials and agency staff, providers, advocacy organizations, pro bono attorneys, and community advocates
9. Represent DRA at coalition meetings, public hearings, stakeholder groups, and/or task forces, as requested.
10. Must be able to work after-hours and weekends as needed.
11. Travel throughout Arkansas on a regular basis, including overnight stays, is also required.

This job posting is intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by a person assigned to this job. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all job duties that may be performed by a person so classified. DRA reserves the right to change or amend responsibilities, job qualifications and required skills as needed.

Qualifications

- Must possess a J.D.;
- Be a member in good standing of the Arkansas Bar or be eligible to become a member within a reasonable time after beginning employment, and maintain such standing throughout employment with DRA;
- A minimum of 3 years' experience as a practicing attorney is preferred;
- Experience or desire to work with and for people with disabilities;
- Demonstrated interest and commitment to public interest law;
- Ability to work efficiently, independently and collaboratively;
- Excellent communication, writing skills, research, organizational and project management skills;
- Ability to exercise sound judgment and maintain confidentiality in a law firm environment;
- Strong public speaking skills;
- Computer proficiency;
- A valid driver's license – this position requires travel throughout Arkansas

Other Desirable Qualifications

- Life experience with a disability
- Experience in a legal services, nonprofit or public interest environment
- Ability to communicate in ASL, Spanish or another non-English language

DRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate in any aspect of employment with regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Individuals who increase the diversity of our team are encouraged to apply.

We offer a compensation package that is competitive with other non-profits. DRA offers excellent benefits which include paid health, dental, vision, life and disability as well as generous paid time off and retirement plan with an employer match.

If interested, please send a resume, three references, and a writing sample to tnichols@disabilityrightsar.org.

Closing Date: Position will remain open until filled

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