STAFF ATTORNEY (MDLC) – FULL-TIME

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center (MMLA/MDLC) is seeking a full-time Staff Attorney for its Minneapolis office. This position will represent individuals with disabilities, in a wide spectrum of legal claims including discrimination matters and issues related to accessing community-based services. The position requires the attorney to provide legal advice, and represent clients in negotiations, mediations, hearings, and state and federal court. The attorney will also investigate allegations of abuse and neglect; conduct onsite monitoring of community residences and other facilities; engage in policy work related to disability rights issues; engage in advocacy to address human rights, discharge planning, community integration issues; and/or provide representation in civil rights cases. This position will be based in MMLA’s Minneapolis office, with some statewide travel required. This position is also in a hybrid work environment.

As an equal opportunity employer, MMLA is committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in our work and staff. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, experiences, and communities to apply. We welcome information about how your experience can contribute to serving our diverse client communities. Applicants are encouraged to share in their cover letter how they can further our goal of equal justice for all. We are committed to a discrimination-free and harassment-free workplace.

BACKGROUND: Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid is a 7-office, 170+ employee, nonprofit law firm, providing free legal representation and services to people with low incomes, people with disabilities, and elderly Minnesotans. MMLA receives funds from federal, state, and local government, foundations, United Ways, and private donors.

MDLC is a statewide program of MMLA. MDLC receives federal funding to serve as Minnesota’s Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system for persons with disabilities. MDLC represents Minnesotans with disabilities to enforce and to protect their basic civil rights. MDLC also engages in community outreach, education of policy makers, and public education efforts to advocate for people with disabilities throughout the state. MDLC’s largest office is in Minneapolis. Other MDLC offices are located in Duluth, Fertile, and Mankato.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Apply the principles of MMLA’s Racial Justice Values Statement in all interactions.
- Provide legal services and advice to individuals with disabilities, which may include legal advocacy, negotiation, mediation, litigation, and handling of administrative and court proceedings.
- Interview clients, review records, manage caseload, and conduct legal research.
- Visit facilities and programs that serve people with disabilities to ensure appropriate and individualized delivery of and access to services and support for clients.
- Assist clients directly with accessing disability support and services, including handling administrative appeals conducted by the Department of Human Services.
- Coordinate with county and community organizations on disability issues for clients.
- Engage in systemic or complex litigation.
- Provide training sessions about the legal rights of people with disabilities.
- Co-counsel cases with other law firms or organizations.
- Provide technical legal support to other individuals or groups.
• Perform educational outreach in diverse communities and provide trainings to people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and other stakeholders.
• Participate in outreach and monitoring efforts.
• Be familiar with and participate in MDLC policy work.
• Maintain effective communications with clients and staff.
• Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Minimum Qualifications:
• Must be licensed to practice law in the State of Minnesota or eligible for admission by reciprocity.
• One or more years of experience working with individuals with disabilities or with disability rights and advocacy.
• Demonstrated commitment to the needs of clients with low incomes and clients with disabilities.
• Excellent legal skills, including written and verbal communication skills, effective litigation outcomes, and proven record of case-handling and outcomes.
• Excellent time management and organizational skills.
• Ability to positively support coworkers while focusing on high-quality service to clients.
• Proficiency using Microsoft Office.

Preferred Qualifications:
• Three or more years of experience working with individuals with disabilities or with disability rights and advocacy.
• Diverse economic, social, and cultural experiences.
• Language proficiency, particularly in Spanish, ASL, or Somali.

SALARY: $55,000 to $66,237 per year, depending on experience, plus benefits. Benefits include family medical and dental insurance, short- and long-term disability, life insurance, 403(b) with employer match, FSA, employee assistance programs, and generous paid time off.

APPLICATIONS: Submit resume and cover letter expressing interest in the position online at https://mylegalaid.org/employment until position is filled.

If you require a reasonable accommodation for completing this application, interviewing, or otherwise participating in our employee selection process, please contact Micaela Schuneman at mschuneman@mylegalaid.org.

MMLA/MDLC is a grant-funded organization. As with any grant funded organization, we rely on that grant funding to maintain positions; however, we fully expect to continue receiving our grants for the foreseeable future.

Please direct all other inquiries to hiring@mylegalaid.org.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.