

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES

3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 902
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone 213-389-2077 Fax 213-389-2595
www.mhas-la.org

A nonprofit organization protecting and advancing the legal rights of people with mental disabilities.



Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. Fellowship: Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Based in Los Angeles County, California

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) is hosting a one-year fellowship sponsored by Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps focused on addressing the legal needs of veterans in Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on serving veterans in the greater San Pedro/Long Beach areas. The attorney selected for the Fellowship will be housed at MHAS's office in Los Angeles. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the fellowship must last 11 to 12 months.

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and advance the legal rights of children and adults with mental disabilities, in order to maximize autonomy, promote equality and secure the resources needed to thrive in the community. MHAS assists both children and adults, with an emphasis on obtaining government benefits and services, protecting rights, and fighting discrimination. MHAS also serves as a resource to the community by providing training and technical assistance to attorneys, mental health professionals, consumer and family member groups, and other advocates. In addition, MHAS participates in impact litigation in an effort to improve the lives of people with mental disabilities.

Fellowship Description: The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Fellow will:

- Provide high quality legal services to veterans to include doing client intake, conducting interviews, advocating for clients and researching the relevant law.
- Advocacy will include areas such as warrant and ticket resolution, landlord-tenant disputes, fair housing matters, including administrative advocacy with housing authorities.
- Position is for a 11- to 12-month Fellowship, during which the Fellow is required to complete 1,700 hours.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have the following:

- **Mandatory:** The ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only conviction for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable pursuant to Equal Justice Works review and approval)
- A demonstrated commitment to public interest work and strong desire to assist indigent clients

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.
Fellowship Position Announcement
Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Fellowship
Page 2 of 2

- Strong writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills
- The ability work collaboratively in a variety of contexts
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments
- Law school clinic, externship, summer or other relevant practice experience
- The ability to begin the fellowship immediately
- California state bar membership or eligibility to practice in California under limited permission rule preferred (The latter is available as a result of bar membership in another state.)
- A valid driver's license
- Those with experience regarding veterans issues strongly encouraged to apply

Salary:

The Fellow will receive an annual living allowance, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses. Additionally, Fellows receive an education award (upon completion of required hours), health insurance, and other benefits. Interested applicants should contact MHAS at info@mhas-la.org with any follow up questions.

Benefits provided by MHAS are:

- Health, dental and vision insurance provided
- Life and disability insurance provided
- Parking provided
- Position related travel reimbursement and bar dues provided
- Opportunities to participate in substantive training on veterans law legal issues and in a variety of local and regional skills based and substantive trainings

Other Benefits and Professional Opportunities offered by AmeriCorps:

- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
- Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
- Childcare assistance (if income eligible)

Application Instructions:

Interested candidates should email info@mhas-la.org with a cover letter, resume and writing sample with AmeriCorps Fellowship – [Your Last Name] in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow is scheduled to begin the term of service no later than January 8, 2018.

Application Deadline: Until filled. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

MHAS is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.