



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.

March 7, 2018

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPORARY STAFF ATTORNEY (GOVERNMENT BENEFITS/HOUSING)

START DATE: April 2, 2018

DURATION OF POSITION: Nine months

SALARY: up to \$4,667 per month, depending on experience

FRINGE BENEFITS:

Generous fringe benefits include paid vacation, holidays and sick leave and employee health, dental, vision, long-term disability and life insurance.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

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.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

MHAS seeks to hire a full-time attorney with prior SSI, SSDI and other disability benefits experience as well as general familiarity with areas of disability law such as fair housing. With respect to government benefits work, the attorney will be part of a new project that helps homeless individuals with disabilities obtain income benefits. Initially, the work will focus on provision of technical assistance, training and quality control review of SSI/SSDI applications. It is anticipated that the attorney will engage in benefits advocacy doing reconsiderations, appeal hearings and cessation hearings as well. The attorney will also train case managers and advocates on SSI/SSDI eligibility and the application process. The attorney will also have the opportunity to gain skills in other areas of disability advocacy, which will include fair housing matters. Fair housing work will include individual representation, training and policy advocacy.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

1. Provide technical assistance to case managers and advocates who prepare SSI/SSDI applications and review applications for quality.
2. Represent clients in SSI/SSDI appeals, including administrative hearings.
3. Represent clients in housing matters.
4. Develop outreach and training materials.
5. Provide outreach and training to service providers and other stakeholders.

Job Announcement
Temporary Staff Attorney
March 7, 2018
Page 2 of 2

6. Participate in project administration, as assigned.
7. Participate in systems advocacy and the development and implementation of long-term advocacy strategies with other members of MHAS' team.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. J.D. degree and membership in California State Bar.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. Demonstrated ability to analyze complex problems and develop creative solutions.
4. Excellent organizational skills.
5. Cultural sensitivity and demonstrated ability to work well within diverse social, economic and ethnic groups.
6. Commitment and sensitivity to the rights of people with mental disabilities.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Spanish language fluency highly preferred.
2. Two to three years' experience with government benefits advocacy, or otherwise advocating for homeless individuals and/or people with mental disabilities, although more recent graduates who have passed the bar will be considered.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE:

All applicants must submit the following:

1. Resume;
2. Cover letter describing how applicant meets the minimum and desirable qualifications and discussing applicant's motivation for seeking the position;

E-mail application to: info@mhas-la.org (state Employment Application in subject line)

MHAS seeks to fill this position immediately. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

MHAS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, mental or physical disability, or any other basis protected by law.