

The logo for Mental Health Advocacy Services is contained within a rectangular border. It features the text "MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES" in a bold, serif font, arranged in three lines. Behind the text is a stylized graphic of a sunburst or starburst.

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

Short-term, Drop-in Volunteer, Internship and Externship Opportunities

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) provides free legal services to people with mental health disabilities. MHAS advocates for children and adults to obtain government benefits, protect rights, and fight discrimination. MHAS provides training and technical assistance to community members, including attorneys and service providers. MHAS also participates in impact litigation to improve the lives of low-income people with mental health disabilities and engages in legislative advocacy and other policy work. MHAS legal service areas include the following:

- Government benefits,
- Housing,
- Special education, and
- Access to mental health services.

MHAS consistently seeks both fall and spring semester extern and intern students and students interested in “mini” internship opportunities during annual winter and spring breaks and before 10-week summer internships begin. From time to time, MHAS also offers students remote volunteer research opportunities as well as drop-in phone clinic opportunities in the office. These time-limited opportunities allow students to become familiar with areas of legal service and disability rights to which they might not have been exposed and to provide valuable legal research and direct service support to our agency under the supervision of an experienced attorney.

All volunteer opportunities are unpaid. In addition to credit for semester-long externships, some schools provide credit for winter break extern experiences.

To apply, email pmarx@mhas-la.org with a cover letter, resume and writing sample.