JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF ATTORNEY

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 health 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 health disabilities.

ANNUAL SALARY: $60,000.

FRINGE BENEFITS AND WORK CULTURE:
Generous fringe benefits include paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave; employee health, dental, vision, long term disability, and life insurance; and parking pass and/or Metro card.

MHAS is proud of its collegial, family-friendly culture that respects the work/life balance of its employees. To that end, MHAS is willing to consider flexible work schedules on a case-by-case basis. MHAS also provides employees with frequent wellness opportunities, including staff gatherings featuring food, a daily stretch break, and trainings on stress management and mindfulness.
JOB DESCRIPTION: MHAS seeks to hire a full-time Staff Attorney with prior public interest legal experience to provide legal services to individuals with mental health disabilities. The ideal candidate will be expected to respond quickly to intakes in a wide range of subject areas including housing, public benefits, and other legal issues related to clients’ mental health disabilities. Other responsibilities will include providing technical assistance and training in the community and engaging in policy advocacy.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:
1. Providing competent legal assistance to clients through advice and counsel, research and writing, negotiation, administrative advocacy, and court advocacy;
2. Developing expertise in a broad range of poverty law issues;
3. Maintaining a caseload in an organized and efficient manner;
4. Creating training materials as assigned;
5. Providing technical assistance and training to stakeholders;
6. Assisting with project administration;
7. Participating in policy advocacy projects; and
8. Assisting with other projects and tasks as identified related to MHAS’ mission.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
1. J.D. degree and membership in California State Bar.
2. Commitment and sensitivity to the rights of people with mental health disabilities and other vulnerable populations.
3. Excellent legal research skills.
4. Excellent oral and written communication skills with attention to detail.
5. Excellent organizational skills.
6. Ability to prioritize tasks, manage time, and meet deadlines.
7. Demonstrated ability to analyze complex problems and develop creative solutions.
8. Cultural sensitivity and demonstrated ability to work well with diverse social, economic, and ethnic groups.

1-13-2020
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Spanish language fluency or proficiency preferred.
2. Public interest legal experience preferred.
3. Experience advocating on behalf of vulnerable populations preferred.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE: Submit the following to info@mhas-la.org (state “Employment Application” in subject line):
1. Resume; and
2. Cover letter describing how applicant meets the minimum desirable qualifications and discussing applicant’s motivation for seeking the position.

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.