Manhattan Legal Services seeks a Staff Attorney for its Disability Advocacy Project.

MANHATTAN LEGAL SERVICES seeks an experienced staff attorney for its Disability Advocacy Project (DAP) to represent disabled low-income clients. Manhattan Legal Services (MLS) is part of Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), the largest provider of free civil legal services for low-income people in the country. The Manhattan program is dedicated to providing high-quality and culturally sensitive legal services in the areas of housing, family law, public benefits, employment, and immigration, and consumer, education, and disability rights. The Manhattan program has designated units serving particularly vulnerable populations including domestic violence survivors, people living with HIV, and people identifying as LGBTQ. We work in close collaboration with community-based partners in the communities we serve.

As part of DAP, the attorney will represent low-income clients living with physical and/or mental health disabilities in their federal disability claims at the administrative and Federal courts levels. The attorney will also work with other MLS and LSNYC experts to arrange and provide community education sessions and engage in public policy advocacy as well as affirmative litigation designed to assert the rights of people living with disabilities.

Responsibilities include interviewing clients; providing legal advice and counseling; case investigation; drafting legal documents; direct representation of clients in administrative proceedings, Civil Court, state Supreme Court, and Federal Court; and working with community groups to coordinate and engage in outreach and education. In addition, the applicant may be responsible for public policy advocacy and identifying and working to change systemic issues which adversely impact our clients.

Required:

- At least 2 years’ experience in legal practice;
- Law degree and eligibility for admission or admission to the New York State Bar;
- Experience litigating affirmative cases in the New York State Supreme Court, federal court, and/or other types of litigation/advocacy to create systemic change;
- Demonstrated commitment to and experience working with and providing culturally sensitive services to vulnerable populations;
- Demonstrated passion for racial, social, and economic justice;
- Excellent interviewing, writing, and communication skills;
- Ability to communicate openly and effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds;
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; and,
- Excellent organizational skills necessary to handle multi-faceted and high-volume caseloads.

Preferred:

- At least 1 year of experience with Social Security disability work, including Social Security disability applications, appeals to the ALJ and Appeals Councils, and litigation in Federal Experience with public speaking and working with community groups;
- At least 1-year experience with public interest work;
- Fluency in another language such as Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin).

Salary is determined by a collective bargaining agreement.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references by email to jobpostingsmls@lsnyc.org.

Manhattan Legal Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and persons over 40 are welcome and are encouraged to apply.

Bar Associations and other organizations: Manhattan Legal Services seeks and welcomes your recommendations for candidates who meet the foregoing qualifications and, in addition, requests that you or your organization encourage such candidates to apply.

All employees are strongly encouraged to continue to receive and maintain up-to-date Covid vaccinations unless they are unable to for medical or religious reasons.

Salary Range (Based on years’ experience):

- 1-10 years: $74,881 - $98,355
- 11-20 years: $100,605 - $118,773
- 21+ years: $124,254 - $135,637