

One Federal Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

T 617-338-5241
888-211-6168 (toll free)
F 617-338-5242
W www.healthlawadvocates.org

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Job Description

Staff Attorney

Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids - Boston

Join a leading non-profit, public interest law firm dedicated to protecting consumers' right to access health care through individual and class-action cases, policy initiatives and systemic challenges

The Opportunity

HLA is a dynamic non-profit, public interest law firm whose mission is to provide pro bono legal services to low-income Massachusetts residents having difficulty accessing or paying for health care. Founded in 1996, HLA provides individual representation and advice for more than 700 clients annually. HLA also engages in system-wide litigation, public policy advocacy and educational programming to advance its goals.

HLA's Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids (MHAP for Kids) diverts children with unmet mental health needs from the juvenile justice system and helps them access treatment. MHAP for Kids attorneys are embedded in select Family Resource Centers where they help at-risk youth overcome barriers to treatment that arise in school systems, State agencies, and the court system. A Boston University study of MHAP for Kids found that the program achieves significant benefits for children and their families. This demonstrated impact led the State to invest financially in MHAP for Kids this year. HLA seeks to expand MHAP for Kids statewide.

Health Law Advocates (HLA) seeks a highly qualified, motivated lawyer with knowledge of the juvenile court, mental health and/or education systems to join the talented MHAP for Kids team as our Staff Attorney serving Boston. This attorney, like our attorneys serving in our MHAP for Kids offices in Lowell and Lynn, will advocate for children across the court, mental health and school systems to ensure that their mental health needs are met and their legal rights are protected. The Staff Attorney will advocate for up to 30 youth at a time.

The MHAP for Kids Staff Attorney: Responsibilities

The Staff Attorney will be a member of HLA's MHAP for Kids team of talented advocates and report to the Director/ Managing Attorney. The

primary day-to-day responsibility of the position is to provide legal representation for youth with unmet mental health needs.

More specific activities include:

- Meeting with clients
- Conducting legal research and writing
- Analyzing education, medical and court records
- Developing and maintaining strong working relationships with staff of the host Home for Little Wanderers Family Resource Center
- Developing and maintaining strong working relationships with State agencies, such as: DCF, DMH, DYS, as well as other stakeholders in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Managing case files
- Promoting MHAP for Kids in the community
- Participating in program evaluation

The MHAP for Kids Staff Attorney: Qualifications

Minimum Requirements Include:

- Juris Doctor Degree
- 4+ years of relevant work experience
- Excellent communication skills, including oral advocacy and writing skills
- A strong understanding of the juvenile court
- A strong understanding of children's mental health systems
- Strong advocacy skills

Other Preferred Qualifications:

- Track record of effectively collaborating with government and community-based service agencies
- Demonstrated cultural competence
- Proven ability to handle a substantial caseload
- Knowledge of the communities served by the Boston Family Resource Center
- Bilingual skills

Benefits

This position includes a robust benefits package including competitive salary (based on experience and other qualifications), comprehensive health insurance and a generous paid leave policy.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and 3 references by email to Robert MacPherson, Chief Operating Officer, Health Law Advocates at rmacpherson@hla-inc.org.

Health Law Advocates is an AA/EO Employer. People of color, LGBTQ identified people, gender nonconforming people, individuals with disabilities, veterans and people who speak a language in addition to English are encouraged to apply.