



PHILLIP KASSEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Supreme Judicial Court

MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT (2) ATTORNEY POSITIONS

The Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC) is hiring two attorneys to collaborate with existing staff to propel the work of the office in defending the rights of persons with mental health concerns.

MHLAC is a state agency of the Supreme Judicial Court. Created by the legislature in 1973, it offers free legal assistance to poor people with mental health challenges throughout the Commonwealth. MHLAC's experienced and talented staff employs limited resources to identify and pursue issues faced by significant numbers of clients in common, often in cooperation with other advocacy organizations or community groups. Approaches to solving client problems depend on the issue itself and the best strategy for accomplishing results. Tactics include class-based and targeted individual litigation, as well as legislative, administrative, and public advocacy. MHLAC also serves as a state wide resource on mental health law and policy. It generates legal and policy materials, testifies on proposed laws and regulations, and has a long history of providing educational and training programs for public counsel, legal services attorneys, social workers, judges, and the general public.

Position Type: Staff/ Full-time

Salary Range: Starting at \$72,201.10; commensurate with experience and qualifications

Office Location: 24 School Street, Suite 804, Boston, MA 02108

Agency Website: www.mhlac.org

Applications received after **June 22, 2018** may or may not be considered.

We seek persons with a demonstrated commitment to pursue social justice through legal advocacy and the skills to do high quality work toward this end.

Qualifications

- Admission to Mass Bar preferred;
- Experience in the delivery of legal services to indigent persons preferred;
- Proficient writing, communication and time-management skills;
- Ability to work effectively and collaboratively with clients and co-workers in a team environment;

- Experience with persons with mental health issues and/or institutionalized persons preferred;
- Ability to communicate in Spanish or another language common among potential MHLAC clients preferred.

Duties:

- Together with other advocacy staff members assembled in teams, litigate or otherwise advocate with the legislature or administrative agencies to address problems that a significant number of MHLAC clients share in common;
- Handle legal representation in prioritized individual cases in order to assist clients while advancing the pursuit of MHLAC's mission;
- Assist in the evaluation of new requests for legal assistance and advise clients on their legal rights;
- Travel to meet with clients and client groups throughout the Commonwealth as necessary to provide representation, offer clients information on legal topics, investigate factual matters, and strategize and assist in resolving client community concerns;
- Field requests from legal advocates and attorneys in Massachusetts seeking technical assistance in cases they are handling for MHLAC eligible clients and participate in the production of training events for attorneys and social service providers on emerging issues in mental health law and policy;
- Attend trainings and other conferences and events relevant to MHLAC priorities in order to stay up to date on mental health law.
- Represent MHLAC client interests in public forums such as statewide task forces and legislative hearings.

References and writing samples will be requested of finalists. A criminal background check will be completed for selected candidate.

How To Apply:

Please submit resume and cover letter via email or mail by **June 22, 2018** to:

Ms. Eleanor Sarcia
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
24 School Street, Suite 804
Boston, MA 02108
esarcia@mhlac.org

ATTN: Attorney position

The Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As the representative of the Commonwealth and its residents, the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee strives to ensure that those working in our office reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. The Committee encourages applicants from a broad spectrum of backgrounds to apply for positions. We will gladly assist applicants who are in need of reasonable accommodations. For assistance, contact Eleanor Sarcia at (617)338-2345, ext.121.