

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: ATTORNEY POSITION - MHLAC**

The Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC) seeks a staff attorney to work on several large-scale advocacy campaigns and collaborate with 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 focuses on identifying and addressing 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 statewide 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. See <http://mhlac.org/what-we-do/> for a description of MHLAC's approach and work.

Position Type: Staff/ Full-time

Salary Range: Starting at \$78,106; commensurate with experience and qualifications

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

Website: [www.mhlac.org](http://www.mhlac.org)

Deadline: Applications received after January 24, 2020 may or may not be considered.

### Qualifications

- Strong commitment to public interest law practice required;
- Proficiency in Spanish strongly preferred;
- Admission, or ability to "waive in," to the Massachusetts 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 and strong interest in working with persons with mental health issues and/or institutionalized persons preferred.

### Duties:

- In cooperation with teamed staff members, litigate or otherwise advocate, independently or in partnership with other organizations or community groups, to address problems that significant numbers of MHLAC clients share in common;
- Handle legal representation in prioritized individual cases 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 to provide representation, information, or strategic assistance that is connected to the pursuit of systemic reforms;
  - Field requests from legal advocates and attorneys in Massachusetts seeking technical assistance in cases they are handling for MHLAC eligible clients;
  - Participate in the production of training events for attorneys and social service providers on emerging issues in mental health law and policy;
  - Attend trainings conferences and events relevant to MHLAC priorities in order to stay up to date on, and gain insight into, mental health law and policy issues;
  - Represent MHLAC client interests in public forums, including legislative and rulemaking hearings and on statewide task forces.

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

How to Apply:

Please submit resume and cover letter via email or mail to:

Ms. Laís Teixeira  
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee  
24 School Street, Suite 804  
Boston, MA 02108  
hiring@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 need reasonable accommodation.