

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: PART-TIME SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL ADVOCATE

Legal Council for Health Justice (Legal Council), located in downtown Chicago, seeks a half-time legal advocate to work with its children and families programming on issues related to special education services.

Legal Council (www.legalcouncil.org) was founded in 1987 as AIDS Legal Council of Chicago to respond to the urgent legal and human needs of persons impacted by HIV and AIDS. In 2014, we changed our name and expanded services to address discrimination, disadvantage, and disparities in health, equity, and well-being across the lifespan of vulnerable populations. Its staff have achieved successes through direct legal representation and high impact litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, and by providing training to and collaborating with other advocates who are working towards the same goals. All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the mission of the Legal Council.

Principal Responsibilities: The special education legal advocate will focus on issues concerning access to special education services. Responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with Legal Council staff to interpret education documents, identify salient issues around development and implementation of IEPs, and pursue 504 plans, IEPs, and due process claims as appropriate.
- Developing and presenting trainings on issues related to special education and developmental differences to build the capacity of families and providers.
- Contributing to policy research and agency impact advocacy efforts.
- Working directly with patients/clients on special education matters.
- Supporting relationships with health, education, and human service providers who identify client referrals through our medical-legal partnerships.

Specific Job Requirements:

- Minimum five years special education advocacy experience.
- Familiarity with special education law and policy issues.
- Ability to work with lawyers, families and professional stakeholders.
- Teaching or related experience in the school setting (preferred).
- COPAA Certification (preferred).
- Presentation/training experience (preferably in special education) to both parent and professional audiences.
- Familiarity with educational testing tools and resources.

Relevant experience includes not only professional advocacy on behalf of others, but personal experience with poverty, chronic illness, mental illness, public housing or other issues affecting our client population.

How to Apply: To apply, email a resume, compelling cover letter, writing sample, and two professional references to: job@legalcouncil.org, attn.: Thomas Yates Executive Director.

Legal Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer: People of color, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, and Veterans are welcomed and strongly encouraged to apply.

Salary: Salary is commensurate with experience and based on agency salary scale.

Submission deadline: Position is open until filled.