



BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES SEEKS DIRECTOR FOR DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROJECT

Project Description

Brooklyn Legal Services seeks a Unit Director for its Disability Advocacy Project.

Brooklyn Legal Services, part of Legal Services NYC’s Brooklyn Programs, provides high-quality, innovative representation to address the pressing legal needs of Brooklyn’s diverse low-income population. BLS focuses on the problems that have the greatest impact on our clients — preserving affordable and decent housing, maintaining income support, redressing abusive lending and consumer practices, promoting family stability and mitigating the effects of domestic violence, and advocating for the disabled.

The DAP Project assists low-income residents of Brooklyn who seek federal Social Security benefits based on mental and/or physical disabilities. The Project assists clients with case development, representation at administrative hearings, appeals, and issues that arise after an award of benefits. We also collaborate with other providers and community partners to develop and implement strategies to remove systemic barriers to disability benefits. The Unit works with people with a wide range of disabilities, including home-bound clients, clients with mental illness and clients with complex treatment schedules.

The Unit’s highly qualified advocates are experts in assisting clients obtain disability benefits. The Director will work to support the Unit’s existing advocacy efforts as well as be responsible for broadening the Unit’s work to address systemic barriers facing people with disabilities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Director will be responsible for working with staff to develop and implement a strategic vision for the Unit’s work. The Director will also devise creative, high impact advocacy strategies to address systemic barriers facing people with disabilities. The Director will supervise the Unit’s attorneys and paralegals on a range of litigation including administrative proceedings, appeals and affirmative litigation in State and Federal Court. The Director will also be responsible for strengthening relationships with community partners and elected officials; addressing systemic disability issues; and handling administrative and grant responsibilities. The Director will be expected to work collaboratively with and provide leadership for LSNYC’s city-wide disability rights practice.

Experience and Qualifications

We seek an attorney admitted to the New York State Bar with:

- A demonstrated passion for social justice and a commitment to working with low-income communities and communities of color to advance equity;
- Excellent analytical, written, and communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills and the ability to provide supportive and consistent supervision to a diverse team of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff in a fast paced and high-volume practice;
- Minimum of 5 years of litigation experience;
- Admission to the federal bar or ability to be admitted quickly; and
- Demonstrated expertise in disability law and policy, or experience with complex litigation.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to bkhiring@lsnyc.org. Please write “DAP Director” in the subject line of the email.

Additional information about the practice may be found on our website, www.legalservicsnyc.org.

Salary and benefits are determined by the LS-NYC Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Legal Services NYC is an equal opportunity employer. People of color, women, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, and people over the age of 40 are strongly encouraged to apply.

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