

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ATTORNEY POSITIONS AVAILABLE:
Bridgeport, CT**

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS) seeks to fill two attorney positions with an initial assignment covering our Child and Youth Advocacy Team project (CYAT) in the Children at Risk Unit, located in the CLS Bridgeport office.

CLS seeks applicants who will use their legal training to help improve the lives of low-income people and further CLS' holistic and client-centered work. CLS lawyers represent families and individuals in administrative hearings and in state and federal courts, as well as advocating in various settings for changes in laws and systems to benefit low-income communities. CLS encourages lawyers addressing complex or systemic client issues to work in teams, which may include other legal services lawyers and/or other local community agencies. Responsibilities include legal representation and advice to individuals and families.

The attorneys will receive training and support and will be expected to:

- Maintain an active child protection caseload in Bridgeport Juvenile Court, working on a team with a social service professional and a legal assistant to provide a quality holistic approach, which includes remote and in person representation in juvenile court and at all related administrative meetings and proceedings, and advocacy to secure necessary educational, medical, and behavioral health services, and home visits with clients as needed;
- Maintain a small education law caseload, which will include remote and in person school meetings, administrative complaints, expulsion and due process hearings, as appropriate;
- Advocate for local systems change through new and existing partnerships;
- Conduct community outreach and training, and coordinate with social service agencies working with our clients;
- Help identify larger trends and issues for our clients, and work to develop strategies to respond to those trends and issues.

Start Date: As soon as possible.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Required:

- Connecticut bar admission;
- Must be able to travel for client/work related events;
- Deep and demonstrated commitment to CLS' mission, vision, goals, and values, and to advocate for and empower low-income and historically oppressed individuals and communities;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to write persuasively and clearly, and the ability to work effectively with diverse individuals and groups;
- Demonstrated ability both to collaborate closely with colleagues and to work independently when necessary;
- Self-motivation, creativity and flexibility in solving problems and meeting challenges.

Preferred, but not required:

- Child protection experience
- Connecticut juvenile or other court experience
- Connecticut administrative hearing experience
- Education law experience
- Spanish language fluency

COMPENSATION: Salary \$61,362-\$120,584, depending on experience; includes excellent vacation/leave, health, student loan assistance, hybrid work opportunity, and other benefits.

APPLICATION: Applicants should send a cover letter clearly describing their qualifications, resume, 3-7 page original writing sample, and the names and contact information for three professional references to applications@ctlegal.org. CLS invites all applicants to include in their Cover Letter a statement about how your unique background and/or experiences might contribute to the diversity, cultural vitality, and perspective of our staff and legal services practice.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and will be accepted until the position is filled. In order to expedite the internal sorting and reviewing process, please type your name (Last, First) and "Attorney Application" as the only contents in the subject line of your e-mail.

Connecticut Legal Services is an equal opportunity employer and contractor. We proudly value diversity and encourage candidates of all backgrounds to apply.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION: CLS is Connecticut's largest non-profit law firm, providing free legal help to low-income people in areas of law including housing, consumer, elder, family, public benefits, education, child protection, immigration, employment, and disability. Offering a collegial workplace with a staff of 75 in seven offices across Connecticut, CLS fights for equal justice and improved life opportunities for more than 12,000 people every year.

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