

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: STAFF ATTORNEY

ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Founded in 1975, Legal Services for Children (“LSC”) is one of the country’s first non-profit law firms dedicated to providing free legal representation and social work services to children. Our mission is to ensure that all children in the San Francisco Bay Area are raised in a safe environment with equal access to a meaningful education and other services that are necessary to thrive and grow. We believe that our youth deserve positive alternatives to unnecessary placement in foster care, juvenile justice facilities, and immigration detention. LSC pioneered the interdisciplinary approach that is considered a best practice in juvenile law today. We deploy attorney-social worker teams to assist at-risk children who need to access the legal system to stabilize or improve their lives. LSC’s attorneys represent children in legal matters that involve guardianship, dependency, school discipline, immigration, and other civil legal matters. Our social workers provide crisis intervention, case management, counseling, and psychosocial assessments. LSC staff also engage in policy and advocacy projects aimed at advancing the rights of children.

ABOUT THE POSITION

LSC seeks a Staff Attorney to represent children in various administrative and judicial proceedings and work with LSC on policy and advocacy efforts.

Duties include:

- Conducting legal screenings, client interviews, and factual and legal investigations, counseling clients, developing case strategies and case plans, and engaging in oral and written advocacy.
- Representing clients in all of LSC’s practice areas (dependency, school discipline, guardianship, and immigration), with a focus on children in Immigration Court proceedings and those detained in facilities run by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (“ORR”).
- Coordinating the delivery of services to youth at one of the facilities for detained unaccompanied minors in ORR custody.
- Providing trainings and outreach for children, other service providers, and the legal community.
- Participating in LSC’s policy and advocacy efforts in one or more of the practice areas.

Qualifications:

- Member in good standing of the State Bar of California. (We will accept applications from individuals who took the July 2013 Bar Exam and are awaiting results, but hiring will be contingent upon admission.)

- Demonstrated commitment to the rights of children.
- Experience in practice of youth law, including immigration practice and preferably, dependency law.
- Experience working with children who are survivors of abuse, neglect, or other trauma.
- Ability to work efficiently and effectively under pressure and in crisis situations.
- Well-organized, motivated, creative, and independent, yet also able to work in a team-oriented environment.
- Commitment to providing culturally competent services.
- Excellent verbal, interpersonal, writing, and interviewing skills.
- Ability to read, speak, and write in Spanish. (This is a requirement and we will not consider applicants who are not fluent in Spanish.)

Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include fully paid health insurance (medical, dental, and vision) and generous paid leave (vacation, sick, holiday, and sabbatical). LSC also offers a flexible spending account for qualified health expenditures.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, send cover letter, resume, brief writing sample, and contact information for three references to jobs@lsc-sf.org with "Staff Attorney" in the subject line. Deadline: November 8, 2013.

Bilingual/bicultural candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

To promote social justice and best serve our clients, LSC is committed to maintaining a diverse staff and providing culturally competent services. We strongly encourage candidates from traditionally underrepresented communities and historically oppressed groups, as well as bilingual and bicultural candidates, to apply.