**MENTAL HEALTH STAFF ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), a private, non-profit law firm, is the Congressionally-mandated Protection and Advocacy organization for individuals with disabilities in Maryland. DRM advances the rights of Marylanders with disabilities, and is dedicated to ensuring the rights of children and adults with all types of disabilities to self-determination, freedom from harm, due process protections, to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually, and participate in community life, with meaningful choices and opportunities.

DRM is seeking to hire a full-time attorney to represent youth and adults with a psychiatric disability. The attorney will be responsible for investigating allegations of serious abuse or neglect and monitoring conditions at psychiatric facilities; developing and presenting trainings on rights topics; advocacy and policy work; and developing strategies, including litigation, to address systemic issues.

**Salary and Benefits:**

Competitive, depending on experience. DRM offers a comprehensive package of benefits, including health and dental insurance.

**Responsibilities**:

* Conduct monitoring visits and give rights trainings to adults at the state psychiatric hospitals as well as children and youth at residential treatment centers;
* Monitor, analyze, and report on trends and developments in the mental health field at the state and federal levels;
* Research conditions at various state institutions and related policies that place people with psychiatric disabilities at risk of abuse and neglect;
* Conduct intakes to screen potential clients;
* Represent clients with psychiatric disabilities in a variety of contexts, including, but not limited to, administrative hearings and civil matters in district court;
* Advocate for clients’ interests in communications with service providers;
* Work collaboratively as part of a litigation team to develop state and federal tort claims;
* Provide technical assistance to develop and implement strategies to address abuse, neglect, and rights violations at a systemic level; and
* Other duties as needed.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

* Law degree;
* Admitted to practice law in Maryland, or willing to sit for the next available Bar Exam or Attorney’s Exam;
* Commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities;
* A demonstrated interest or background in public interest work, particularly related to individuals with psychiatric disabilities;
* Ability to work independently and collaboratively with internal and external partners;
* Excellent organizational and project management skills;
* Strong research and writing skills;
* Strong public speaking and/or teaching skills;
* Excellent interpersonal and cross cultural communication skills; ability to communicate ideas with enthusiasm to diverse audiences (e.g., clients, family members, government officials, service providers, non-governmental advocates, and community leaders);
* Ability to exercise sound independent judgment and maintain confidentiality in a law firm environment;
* Experience working with clients in the context of either social services or legal services;
* Computer proficiency; and
* Access to reliable transportation and a valid driver’s license -– this position requires travel throughout Maryland.

**OTHER DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

* 3-5 years’ experience working in mental health law;
* Experience working directly with people with a mental illness;
* Experience conducting investigations;
* Experience with public policy advocacy and the legislative process;
* Life experience with a disability; and
* Fluency in Spanish.

DRM values diversity. Individuals with disabilities, people of color, LGBTQIA+, individuals and others who contribute to staff diversity are especially encouraged to apply. DRM is an Equal Opportunity employer.

Applicants should send a cover letter with resume and writing sample by **March 30, 2018** to jobs@DisabilityRightsMD.org with “Mental Health Attorney” in the subject line to or mail a hardcopy to:

Disability Rights Maryland

ATTN: Mental Health Attorney Position

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000

Baltimore, MD 21211