



SPRING 2019
DISABILITY RIGHTS
LEGAL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), a 40 year-old nonprofit civil rights law firm, is Maryland's designated Protection and Advocacy organization, charged with advancing the rights of people with all types of disabilities. DRM utilizes an array of strategies, including individual and class representation, outreach and education, information and referral, technical assistance and self-advocacy support, policy and coalition work, and abuse and neglect investigations, to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in schools, the workplace, neighborhoods and all aspects of community life.

DRM is offering a Spring 2019 legal internship to focus on advancing the rights of people with disabilities in Maryland communities. The intern will work closely with DRM's attorneys to provide comprehensive advocacy, which may include investigating complaints of rights violations; assisting with intake and client communication; conducting legal research and writing; assisting with individual casework; and supporting systemic advocacy around how proposed government policies will affect people with disabilities.

This internship presents a unique experience for the right individual, with significant client contact, legal research and writing opportunities, close working relationships with DRM attorneys and meaningful opportunities to work with national, state, and local stakeholders on issues impacting people with all types of disabilities. DRM is willing to work with students who would like to apply for externship credit or grant funding for this internship. A stipend may be available.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Research and legal writing:** Interns will have the opportunity to research and write memoranda on various issues as relevant to program priorities, such as: the civil rights of students with disabilities to make meaningful educational progress and remain in school; the rights of people with disabilities to accessible housing, community services, and health care; the rights of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to make decisions and receive supports as needed to achieve their goals in the community; and criminal justice reform and crisis response issues for people with behavioral health disabilities.
- **Conducting investigations and supporting case representation:** The intern will assist DRM attorneys in handling issues related to issues such as:
 - Prison conditions and criminal justice issues;
 - Allegations of abuse, neglect, and other rights violations of people with disabilities in institutions and community based services;

- Access to affordable housing and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities;
- Access to free appropriate public education and non-exclusionary and non-discriminatory discipline practices; and
- Reducing barriers to employment for people with disabilities.
- **Community Outreach:** The intern will collaborate with DRM staff attorneys to support collaboration with partners and other stakeholders.
- **Client Intakes:** The intern will conduct client intake and follow-up under the supervision of DRM attorneys.
- **Administrative Support:** The intern will perform some administrative work, such as data collection and updating electronic and hardcopy case files.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- College degree;
- Student currently enrolled in a Juris Doctor program; strong preference for second or third year law students;
- Demonstrated interest or background in public interest work, particularly related to issues of disability, race and socio-economic justice;
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with internal and external partners;
- Excellent organizational and project management skills;
- Strong research and writing skills;
- Excellent interpersonal and cross cultural communication skills;
- Ability to communicate ideas with enthusiasm to diverse audiences (e.g., clients, family members, service providers, non-governmental advocates, and community leaders);
- Ability to exercise sound independent judgment and maintain confidentiality in a law firm environment; and
- Computer proficiency.

OTHER DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience working directly with people with disabilities;
- Experience working on legal research projects;
- Life experience with a disability;
- Fluency in Spanish; and
- Access to reliable transportation and a valid driver's license for travel throughout Maryland.

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.

Send your (1) cover letter stating your interest, knowledge and experience; (2) current resume (3) at least one writing sample that reflects your own work (no longer than six pages); and (4) list of at least three references to: Disability Rights Maryland, ATTN: Casey Shea, Esq., 1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000 Baltimore, MD 21211, or via email with "Disability Rights Internship" in the subject line to: CaseyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org. Additional writing sample(s) (no longer than six pages) and evaluations are welcome. This opportunity was announced on October 10, 2018 and priority consideration will be given to applications received by November 20, 2018.