**Eviction Defense Staff Attorney**

DRM seeks a passionate, civil rights-oriented, full-time attorney for a 2 year position to provide representation in eviction defense in support of DRM’s work to ensure access to safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing. The attorney will be responsible for providing representation to income-eligible clients in eviction proceedings and other cases that would prevent the spread and risk of exposure of COVID-19. This position is funded through CARES Act funding and may be extended depending on available funding.

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), a private, non-profit law firm, is a recognized leader in disability rights and the Congressionally-mandated Protection and Advocacy organization for individuals with disabilities in Maryland. We provide free legal services and advocacy to persons with disabilities in Maryland. DRM envisions a world where people with disabilities are fully included in the workplace, neighborhoods and all aspects of community life.  We help people with disabilities pursue opportunities to participate fully in all aspects of community life, and champion their rights to self-determination, dignity, equality, opportunity, and freedom from discrimination and harm.

**Reports to:** Managing Attorney

**Supervises:** Legal Interns

**Responsibilities Include:**

* Maintain active caseload representing individuals with disabilities in eviction proceedings, and other cases that would prevent the spread and risk of exposure of COVID-19.
* Conduct regular outreach to identify clients in need of services;
* Under supervision of Managing Attorney create necessary legal programs to satisfy requirements of CARES Act Funding, and identify systemic issues which would increase housing security for persons with disabilities;
* Maintain detailed records and case files for individuals represented and served by DRM in eviction proceedings;
* Under supervision of Managing Attorney produce quarterly reports to demonstrate compliance with CARES Act Funding requirements;
* Travel throughout Baltimore City.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

* J.D. degree from an accredited law school;
* Licensed to practice law in Maryland;
* Strong commitment to DRM’s core mission of ensuring the civil rights of people with disabilities to self-determination, freedom from harm, due process protections, to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually, and to participate in community life, with meaningful choices and opportunities;
* Excellent organizational and project management skills;
* Excellent interpersonal and cross cultural communication skills, ability to communicate ideas with enthusiasm to diverse audiences;
* Ability to research and analyze complex legal issues, develop and execute a variety of advocacy strategies, conduct legal research and communicate complex legal issues clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
* Ability to work independently and to establish and maintain effective working relationships and collaborate with colleagues in a team environment;
* Ability to successfully manage multiple work priorities and work under deadlines.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* 1-3 years’ experience or more with Maryland landlord-tenant law, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act;
* Experience representing clients in court;
* Experience working directly with persons with disabilities;
* A demonstrated interest or background in public interest work, particularly related to disability rights issues;
* Life experience with a disability; and
* Fluency in American Sign Language or Spanish.

**Salary and Benefits:**

Competitive, depending on experience. DRM offers an excellent, comprehensive package of benefits, including health, dental and vision insurance, and retirement plan contribution.

**To Apply:**

E-MAIL resume, cover letter, a writing sample to jobs@DisabilityRightsMD.org with “Eviction Defense Attorney Position” in the subject line. This position remains open until filled. Priority will be given to applications received prior to **January 30, 2021.** We are looking for thoughtful, personalized cover letters that demonstrate the applicant’s qualifications, work style and interest in being part of a team working to advance the civil rights of persons with disabilities in Maryland.

DRM is an equal opportunity employer. DRM values diversity. People of color, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals are especially encouraged to apply.