



Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Staff Attorney for Victims of Trauma & Violence

The Children's Law Center of Massachusetts ("CLCM") is seeking a full-time staff attorney with experience in education, child welfare and related advocacy services to assist children and youth who are victims of trauma and/or crime, or whose family members have experienced same. The position is for one to two years.

Founded in 1977 and based in Lynn, the CLCM is a legal advocacy and resource center that provides a range of legal services to children, from newborns to 22 years, in education, child welfare, immigration, mental health and related substantive areas. It seeks to ensure justice and maximize opportunity for its clients, many of whom confront challenges in public schools and/or are caught up in the state's human service systems.

This position is part of a statewide endeavor called the *Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime Initiative (CLAVC)* that will target children and/or family members who have experienced trauma as a result of abuse or criminal conduct. The attorney will provide advocacy and defense on education-related issues, from special education to school discipline, homelessness advocacy, and restraint/seclusion in school settings as well as advocacy around abuse & neglect, family law, and immigration matters. The service area is statewide but will focus primarily on the northeast and Greater Boston.

General Responsibilities of Staff Attorney for Victims of Trauma & Violence:

The successful candidate will (1) represent children in education disputes, including in special education, school exclusion, other discipline and enrollment matters; (2) provide advocacy to victims of abuse and neglect (3) represent children in family law cases, including custody-related and domestic violence cases, and (4) represent immigrant children who have been victims of trauma/crime. The attorney also will engage in various non-case related activities including community outreach; training parents, attorneys and service providers on legal issues affecting children; task force/committee participation; and, systems reform work designed to enhance the effect of the agency's direct service efforts. The attorney will be responsible for working with/overseeing the CLCM's intake line for these cases. She/he will work closely with staff of legal aid programs across the state, and staff of numerous youth-serving programs in the northeast region and Greater Boston.

Qualifications:

- Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar or licensed to practice law in Massachusetts
- Spanish language proficiency or fluency strongly preferred
- Knowledge of data systems and collection
- Familiarity with state and federal education and special education laws
- Familiarity with state child welfare law
- Excellent organizational, communication and leadership skills

- Experience working with urban school and state human service systems
- Commitment to the legal needs of low income children, including immigrant populations

Salary and benefits are competitive with legal services scales. **To apply, send a resume, cover letter, and references to: Children's Law Center of MA, 298 Union Street, Lynn, MA 01901, or E-Mail same to j.mcmanus@clcm.org** No phone calls, please.

CLCM is an equal opportunity employer, committed to diversity in the workplace and encourages all applicants, regardless of age, race, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation to apply.