

Full-Time Faculty Director
Disability and Civil Rights Clinic, Brooklyn Law School

Brooklyn Law School is seeking applications for two positions in our Disability and Civil Rights Clinic: Advocating for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: The Faculty Director and a Clinical Instructor/Staff Attorney. The Clinic launched in 2015 and is an in-house clinic that functions as a small *pro bono* law firm representing low-income New Yorkers and their families in a variety of civil legal matters, including housing, public benefits, access to health care, immigration, special education, parental rights, alternatives to guardianship and discrimination in access to programs and services. The Clinic is committed to providing legal representation to underserved communities and conducts outreach and education efforts to achieve this end. Through direct legal services, affirmative litigation, public policy reform, community education and coalition building, the Disability and Civil Rights Clinic engages in various forms of advocacy to make the greatest impact on the community.

Faculty Director Responsibilities

The Faculty Director of the Clinic will be responsible for every aspect of the Clinic's work. Responsibilities of the Faculty Director include developing a case docket and policy initiatives; supervising clinic students' work on client matters and policy projects; organizing and planning workshops and events specific to the mission of the Clinic; building and fostering partnerships with community organizations, government entities and local partners; conducting community outreach and education efforts; planning the seminar curriculum including covering substantive areas of disability and poverty law, basic lawyering skills and professional ethics.

The Clinical Instructor/Staff Attorney will supervise students and assist teaching the seminar, and also will help cover the Clinic docket during the summer session. This may include supervising summer legal interns, acting as lead counsel on cases that did not conclude during the semester, engaging in community education efforts and pursuing public policy initiatives. The CI/SA is also responsible for working together with the Faculty Director to ensure the effective management of the Clinic.

Examples of cases/projects undertaken by the Clinic include guardian *ad litem* appointments for 17-A guardianship proceedings; filing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) motions in appellate court on behalf of parents with intellectual disabilities; filing administrative appeals before the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities; asserting ADA and Section 504 claims in requests for reasonable accommodations to private entities in federal court and to government agencies; representing a nonverbal immigrant in his application for asylum; representing clients in housing court; testifying before administrative agencies in response to proposed rulemaking; presenting to community groups on issues of disability rights; and preparing "Know Your Rights" materials and training.

Qualifications

Faculty Director: The candidate should ideally possess the following: a JD and at least eight years of civil legal services experience, including litigation and administrative hearings, or the equivalent; experience advocating for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and in providing direct legal services in areas that include supported decision making, guardianship, family law, immigration, housing, public benefits, Medicaid, Social Security and/or related advocacy; familiarity with programs that assist persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; desire to mentor, supervise and teach law students in an “in-house” clinical program; excellent research, writing, communication and organizational skills; and the ability to work effectively within diverse stakeholder communities.

We seek a candidate who is creative, curious and self-motivated with an ability to anticipate issues and follow-up independently; is an exceptional strategist who can thrive in an academic environment and enjoys thinking through complex legal issues; exhibits professionalism, drive and tenacity; and has a demonstrated passion for social justice advocacy and a commitment to working with low-income communities.

Clinical teaching experience and/or experience supervising law students and entry level lawyers is a plus.

Admission to the NY State Bar is required.

Clinical Instructor/Staff Attorney: The candidate should ideally possess the following: a JD and at least three years of experience, preferably in civil legal matters related to the work of the clinic (see above).

Admission to the NY State Bar is required.

Application Instructions

The position is funded by a generous multi-year grant from the Taft Foundation. The grant is now in its second 4-year cycle and both positions are funded through June 30, 2022. The positions are for a 12-month renewable contract. Salary will be commensurate with experience within the budget of the grant.

Please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to julie.devito@brooklaw.edu with the subject: “DCRC Faculty Director Position” or “DCRC Clinical Instructor Position/Staff Attorney.” Preferred start date for the Director is July 1, 2019 at the latest but an earlier start date can be arranged. The preferred state date for the Clinical Instructor/Staff Attorney position is July 1 at the earliest but no later than August 1, 2019. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Candidates will be contacted for interviews with the Faculty Appointments Sub-Committee.

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