



National Disability Rights Network

Job Announcement

Staff Attorney Education

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), a leading national organization on the rights of persons with disabilities located in Washington, D.C., seeks an **experienced attorney** to provide training and technical assistance on the educational rights of **infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities** to attorneys and advocates who work for the federally created Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system. This attorney position is critical to NDRN's support of the P&A network's work on children and youth rights issues, and collaboration with the broader civil rights community to address race and equality issues within the education and youth service systems.

Specifically, the staff attorney will assist Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system staff with the following:

- To enable infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities to receive a quality education through P&A advocacy.
- To prevent the removal of students with disabilities from school through suspension, expulsion, informal removal, alternative school placement, arrest, and involuntary psychiatric commitment, and protect related rights including to privacy, criminal procedure, and Constitutional Due Process.
- To ensure that the substantive and due process rights of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities who are also members of other protected classes receive equal treatment under the law.

Who We Are:

NDRN is the nonprofit membership organization for the network of Congressionally mandated disability rights agencies known as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and Client Assistance Programs (CAP). A P&A and CAP agency is located in every state, the District of Columbia, the five U.S. territories, and for one affiliated with the American Indian Consortium in the Four Corners region. P&A agencies have the authority to provide legal representation and other advocacy services, under federal laws, to all people with disabilities. The P&A/CAP network is collectively the largest provider of legal services to people with disabilities in the United States.

The Training and Technical Assistance Support Center (TASC) at NDRN provides training, technical assistance, and legal support to the P&A/CAP agencies. NDRN also provides membership benefits, and is involved in public policy efforts to create a society in which people with disabilities are afforded equal opportunity and are able to fully participate by exercising choice and self-determination. For more information about NDRN and TASC visit www.ndrn.org.

Responsibilities of the Education Staff Attorney Include:

- Provide technical assistance to P&A system staff on substantive and due process rights related to education law and policy impacting students with disabilities. Technical assistance may involve providing advice on litigation strategies along with other advocacy approaches.
- Develop, coordinate, and conduct distance and in-person trainings to meet the identified training needs of P&A staff in order to enhance and expand their ability to protect the education and related rights of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.
- Create, update, and maintain relevant training and technical assistance resources and participate on relevant forums in areas related to education law and policy.

- Broker expertise among the P&A/CAP network and work with outside experts to promote the sharing of resources and the quality of services across the network.
- Develop and expand collaborations with appropriate federal agencies, other national disability, education and civil rights advocacy organizations, and related coalitions.
- Draft proposals and develop position papers regarding relevant laws, regulations, policies, and practices which impact the education and services for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities so that they ensure equity for all students.
- Provide subject matter expertise to support NDRN special projects, grants, and be available if necessary to federal and state policy makers concerning the education and other services provided to infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.
- Contribute to and prepare articles and reports that enhance the image and visibility of the P&A system and promote collaboration with other disability organizations and state and federal policy makers.
- Compile and draft reports concerning technical assistance, training, and collaborative work to demonstrate the efficacy of the P&A/CAP network and NDRN, including those required by funders.
- Contribute to regularly circulated TASC training and technical assistance publications, and produce other publications as required.

Required Qualifications:

- A Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school, with a minimum of 3 to 5 years of experience in legal practice. Good standing to practice law in at least one state or the District of Columbia.

- Experience representing and advising clients in matters involving the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and other federal and state civil rights law which protect infants, toddlers, children and youth.
- Direct experience representing students at Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, IDEA alternative dispute resolution, or IDEA/Section 504 due process hearings and complaint investigations.
- Work with systemic education reform efforts at the local, state, or national level.
- Strong knowledge of the public, private, and charter school education systems.
- A solid understanding of federal disability rights laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- Demonstrated commitment to civil rights, educational equity, and social justice.
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally.
- Excellent legal research and analytical skills.
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills, including but not limited to sensitivity to other people and the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Prior work with a non-profit legal services programs.
- A strong understanding of the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System.

- Direct involvement in federal court litigation.
- Experience representing clients at school board expulsion hearings or representing students who have filed state level education complaints.
- Experience representing children and youth in the juvenile justice system, those otherwise subject to court involvement and oversight, or unaccompanied minors.
- Experience filing Office of Civil Rights complaints.
- Experience presenting and training with large and small groups to convey specialized content to adult learners.

Location and Travel:

The position will be located at NDRN's office in Washington, D.C. Partial remote work may be considered based on the specific qualifications of an individual candidate. The position requires some travel and occasional work on weekends.

Compensation and Benefits:

NDRN offers a competitive salary, based on experience. Benefits include health plan; Flexible Spending Account; transit and parking benefits; 403(b) retirement plan; paid vacation and sick leave, and at least ten paid holidays.

How To Apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements attention David Hutt, Deputy Executive Director for Legal Services, NDRN by February 28, 2022:

E-mail to: OpenEdAttorney@ndrn.org (Subject: Education Staff Attorney Position); or

Mail to: 820 First Street, NE, Suite 740, Washington, DC 20002.

No phone calls please.

Closing date: February 28, 2022. Candidates selected for an interview will be required to submit a writing sample.

NDRN is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or protected veteran status.

Persons from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.