

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(6/16/22)

The Position: Legal Director

The Organization: Since 1972, the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law has advocated for the inclusion, autonomy, and equality of adults and children with mental disabilities in courts all over the country, the Supreme Court, and in the policy arena. Our legal and policy advocacy – often focused on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Medicaid law, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - benefits all people with disabilities. We were pivotal in expanding the civil rights movement to include advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities. Today, the Bazelon Center uses a unique combination of litigation, public policy advocacy, coalition building and leadership, media outreach, and technical assistance to advance the rights of people with mental disabilities in health and mental health care, education, employment, housing, and the criminal and immigration systems, with a focus on reforming public service systems. We advocate for access to services that support community living, a quality education, and alternatives to jails and prisons, among other reforms. Learn more at www.bazelon.org. We are committed to equity in the changes we seek to achieve in the world and in everything we do.

About the Position: The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law seeks an experienced attorney to be its Legal Director. The Legal Director provides vision, direction, and support for the Bazelon Center’s legal program and for the organization as a whole. The Legal Director will work with the legal staff, private pro bono co-counsel, and nonprofit co-counsel to develop and litigate innovative, complex, high-impact cases, including ground-breaking litigation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Legal Director will also assist in Supreme Court and other appellate cases, advocate with federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, support the Center’s policy initiatives, and collaborate and build coalitions with other leaders and organizations in the disability rights, civil rights, and mental health communities. The Legal Director works closely with the CEO, Board of Trustees, and non-legal staff on overall organizational strategy, including policy priorities, communications, development, and finances.

The ideal candidate will be a strong leader and an experienced, strategic, effective, and hands-on litigator, with experience and interest in litigating complex cases, knowledge about disability rights, mental health systems, and the Medicaid program. Applicants should have a strong commitment to the protection of individual rights of people with mental disabilities, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color, as well as excellent presentation/courtroom, analytic, and writing skills. A background in public interest law is preferred.

1090 Vermont Ave NW Suite 220 Washington DC 20005 202 467 5730

www.bazelon.org @bazeloncenter

Job Qualifications:

- J.D. degree
- Ten years (minimum) of legal experience
- Admitted to practice in D.C. or eligible to be admitted to practice
- Commitment to, and experience working with, people with disabilities
- Substantial litigation experience, preferably in one or more of the following areas: disability rights, racial justice, civil rights, poverty law, criminal law, and health care
- Awareness of the role of structural racism in public systems and its impact on people with disabilities who are Black, Indigenous and people of color
- Ability to solve complex legal problems creatively
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills
- Ability to initiate, lead, and manage multiple complex projects, and work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work autonomously and as a part of a team
- Ability to work in coalition with other groups to advance complex policy and litigation issues

Location: The Bazelon Center's office is located in Washington, DC and it conducts litigation across the country. The successful applicant will work remotely and in person. Much of the work can be done remotely, but some will need to be done in person, including, as needed, court proceedings, some internal meetings, and some external meetings. Travel is sometimes required, consistent with pandemic safety precautions.

Compensation: \$170,000, commensurate with experience plus an excellent benefits package.

To Apply: Please submit a cover letter, resume and two writing samples that reflect your own drafting. All application materials can be emailed to jobs@bazelon.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please. Target start month: October 2022

The Bazelon Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Bazelon Center is committed to recruiting and maintaining a diverse team. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, disability, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, family responsibilities, or status as a veteran. Applicants who will increase the diversity of the Bazelon Center are especially encouraged to apply.