



DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER – NEW HAMPSHIRE

POSITION: **Litigation Director**

DATE: January 11, 2018

Disability Rights Center – New Hampshire (DRC) promotes the civil rights of people with disabilities in New Hampshire. In the past 40 years, DRC litigated landmark cases regarding special education, employment discrimination, access to housing and Medicaid services. Recently, DRC’s litigation led to a historic investment in mental health services for people at risk of hospitalization, improved accessibility of downtown Concord, and access to services for people with brain injuries.

DRC is seeking a Litigation Director to lead our team in the fight to protect and expand the rights of people with disabilities across the state via litigation, individual representation and investigations.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Litigation Development:

- Develop, manage and supervise DRC’s individual and systemic litigation:
 - Identify litigation opportunities across the state.
 - Ensure ongoing development of litigation on disability rights issues.
 - Oversee all aspects of DRC’s litigation activities, including investigation, research, discovery, motion practice, trial work, and appellate practice.
 - Review pleadings, briefs, letters, presentations, and other attorney work product.
 - Ensure that attorneys are seeking attorneys’ fees where appropriate.
- Maintain an active caseload of representation on behalf of people with disabilities on disability-related civil rights issues in state and federal court.
- Develop and expand collaborations with partner organizations and private firms in New Hampshire and across the country on litigation and other systems change efforts.
- In accordance with DRC’s goals, priorities and in consultation with senior staff, determine cases to be opened and assigned to DRC attorneys.
- Assist the Executive Director in developing and implementing DRC’s priorities, including the development of litigation strategies, budgets and resource development.

Leadership and Supervision:

- Support and supervise a team of experienced and newer attorneys.
- Ensure high quality representation by attorneys through regular case review, advocacy skills training, and other quality assurance mechanisms. Ensure DRC's legal work incorporates best practices.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of organization policies and procedures related to litigation, representation and related matters.
- Regularly report on DRC's casework, including contributing to reports to DRC's funders.
- Provide orientation, training, supervision, and evaluation of attorneys and others as assigned.
- Lead regular meetings of DRC's legal staff to discuss issues impacting people with disabilities and develop creative legal strategies.

Systemic Advocacy

- Work collaboratively with policy, outreach, and fiscal management staff on DRC's systems change efforts.
- Participate in traditional media appearances (TV and radio), social media activities, and other communication efforts, including drafting press releases and newsletters related to DRC's litigation.

Continuing Education

- Stay current with relevant changes in state and federal law.
- Maintain continuing legal education requirements required by the NH Bar, and attends trainings to maintain and improve or refine advocacy skills and substantive knowledge.

Required Qualifications:

1. Commitment to enforcing and expanding the rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire through individual and systemic litigation.
2. Strong analytical and strategic skills and experience developing litigation strategies to advance the law and address systemic problems.
3. Juris Doctor from an accredited law school; licensed to practice law in New Hampshire (at the time of hire or as soon as possible after hiring by taking the bar exam or through admission by waiver).
4. A minimum of 7 years practicing law with at least 5 years litigation experience, including experience in complex civil litigation.
5. Exceptional skills in drafting complex briefs, pleadings and motions, conducting depositions, and trial work.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Passion about litigation and the use of litigation to improve the lives of people with disabilities.
2. Experience with class action, major impact, or other systemic litigation.
3. Experience in disability law, including, but not limited to Medicaid, special education, the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or other federal or state laws impacting people with disabilities.
4. Three years experience in providing direct supervision of attorneys engaged in litigation practice.

To Apply: Send cover letter expressing your interest in and qualifications for the position; resume; description of significant state and federal cases litigated, including your role in them; and a writing sample/brief (not to exceed 30 pages) by e-mail to hr@drcnh.org.

DRC-NH is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals. DRC-NH affords equal opportunity regardless of color, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability (physical or mental), age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other non-merit factor. The DRC-NH welcomes and encourages applications from persons with disabilities.