The position description is meant to describe the general nature and level of work to be performed. This is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required for this position.

Position Title: **Staff Attorney**

Division: **Legal**

Supervisor: **Litigation Director**

FLSA Status: **Exempt**

Location(s): **New Orleans**

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**Disability Rights Louisiana Background**

Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization organized in 1977 to protect, empower and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and senior citizens in Louisiana.

DRLA protects, empowers, and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities and seniors living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. DRLA does this through direct legal representation, information and referral, education and training, and systems advocacy.

We are seeking a staff attorney to provide targeted individual representation, high quality impact litigation, and systemic advocacy.

**Responsibilities**

The Staff Attorney is responsible for assisting in the development and execution of DRLA’s individual and systemic litigation, providing legal advice and assistance, including direct representation in court and administrative proceedings, in accordance with DRLA’s priorities to individuals seeking assistance from DRLA, and maintaining an active caseload on disability-related civil rights issues in state and federal court.
Essential Functions

● Assist in the development and execution of DRLA’s individual and systemic litigation:
  o Assist in the identification of litigation opportunities across the state.
  o Promote and assist in ongoing development of litigation on disability rights issues.
● Provide legal advice and assistance, including direct representation in court and administrative proceedings, in accordance with DRLA’s priorities to individuals seeking assistance from DRLA.
● Maintain an active caseload of representation on behalf of people with disabilities on disability-related civil rights issues in state and federal court.
● Stay current with relevant changes in state and federal law.
● Maintain continuing legal education requirements as required by the Louisiana Bar, and attend trainings to maintain and improve or refine advocacy skills and substantive knowledge.
● Provide necessary direction and supervision for non-attorney legal advocates as needed.
● Provide input in the planning and evaluation of the legal work of the agency as requested.

Requirements

● Graduate of accredited law school and member of the Louisiana Bar, or able to take the next offered Bar exam.
● Demonstrated commitment to public interest law.
● One to five years of experience in public interest law and/or issues related to age or disability preferred.
● A commitment to enforcing and expanding the rights of people with disabilities across Louisiana through individual and systemic litigation.
● Strong analytical skills and a willingness to develop and implement litigation strategies to advance the law and address systemic problems.
● Excellent writing skills with the ability to draft complex briefs, pleadings and motions, conducting depositions, and trial work.

How to Apply

Please submit cover letter, resume, a writing sample and a list of references to hr@disabilityrightsla.org, Subj: Staff Attorney.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with consideration closed when a successful candidate has been chosen.
The above job description is meant to describe the general nature and level of work being performed; it is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required for this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related instructions and to perform other job-related duties requested by their supervisor in compliance with Federal and State Laws. All job requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities. Some requirements may exclude individuals who pose a direct threat or significant risk to the health and safety of themselves or other employees. Requirements are representative of minimum levels of knowledge, skills and/or abilities. To perform this job successfully, the employee must possess the abilities or aptitudes to perform each duty proficiently. Continue employment remains on an “at-will” basis.

**Equal Opportunity**

Disability Rights Louisiana values diversity among our employees and is an equal opportunity employer. Disability Rights Louisiana hires without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, age (over 40), disability (mental and physical), sex, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, military and veteran status, or any other protected characteristic.

Disability Rights Louisiana endorses and supports the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees needing accommodations.