



Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) Background

DRLA is the designated non-profit Protection and Advocacy agency providing free legal and advocacy services to people with disabilities throughout the state. DRLA protects, empowers, and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

We are seeking a staff attorney, licensed to practice in Louisiana, to provide targeted individual representation, high quality civil rights litigation at the state and federal levels, and systemic advocacy. The right candidate for the job will be energetic, organized, excited about delivering justice to underserved populations, and be able to start working with DRLA soon.

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 the 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:
 - Assist in the identification of litigation opportunities across the state.
 - 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 the DRLA.
- Maintain an active caseload of representation on behalf of people with disabilities on disability-related civil rights issues in administrative, 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 current Louisiana bar admission required.
- 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.
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills with the ability to effectively communicate with clients, co-workers, officials and co-counsel.
- Excellent research and writing skills with the ability to draft complex briefs, pleadings and motions, conduct depositions, and perform necessary trial work.
- Strong time management and organizational skills with the ability to manager multiple clients and cases, adhere to DRLA's case processing procedures, and meet deadlines.

Benefits and Compensation

DRLA offers a competitive benefits package including:

- Health insurance (with agency contribution)
- Dental insurance
- Vision insurance
- Long-term disability insurance
- Basic life insurance (fully paid by the agency)
- Voluntary life insurance
- 401(k) retirement plan (with agency match and profit sharing plan)
- Flexible Spending Account (with agency contribution)
- Paid Time Off (vacation, sick, holidays)

Compensation: Starting salary of \$52,000 to \$70,000 annually, commensurate with experience.

How to Apply

To be considered, applicants must submit a cover letter and resume to hr@disabilityrightsla.org.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with consideration closed when a successful candidate has been chosen.

Equal Opportunity

Disability Rights Louisiana values diversity among our employees and is an equal opportunity employer. DRLA 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.

We strongly encourage individuals from underrepresented groups to apply.

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.