



Advocates for Children of New York
Protecting every child's right to learn

Staff Attorney for Impact Litigation and Direct Services

Advocates for Children of New York, Inc. (AFC) is hiring a staff attorney who will represent parents and students in systemic reform litigation with respect to education in New York City. Responsibilities may include drafting pleadings and briefs, writing and arguing motions, conducting hearings, appearing in federal court, supervising and undertaking document discovery, taking and defending depositions, negotiating settlements, and monitoring final settlements and orders.

The attorney also will represent low-income parents of students with disabilities in administrative proceedings to obtain appropriate educational services. This representation involves working with individual families to identify appropriate placements and services, drafting pleadings and motions, participating in school meetings, appearing at administrative hearings, and securing implementation of settlements and hearing orders. The representation in these special education hearings frequently informs our federal court and systemic work.

During the first year of this position, the attorney will split time equally between systemic federal litigation and direct representation of clients in NYC special education hearings. After the first year, the goal for this position is to work primarily on our federal and systemic cases while still working on 5 or 6 direct representation hearings a year related to our systemic litigation.

Working in partnership with New York City's most disadvantaged families to secure quality public education services, AFC is a not-for-profit social justice organization that enforces civil rights law. AFC works on behalf of children and youth who face barriers to education due to poverty, race, ethnicity, disability, homelessness, immigration status/limited English proficiency, or involvement in the child welfare or juvenile/criminal justice systems. We use uniquely integrated strategies to advance systemic reform, empower families and communities, and advocate for the educational rights of individual students.

Qualifications:

We are looking for an attorney with two or more years of legal experience, including prior federal court practice. Applicants should have outstanding oral advocacy skills; strong research, writing and analytical skills; ability to manage multiple cases simultaneously; and a demonstrated commitment to public interest law. Experience and/or knowledge of education, disability and general civil rights law strongly preferred. Proficiency in a language other than English is preferred but not required.

How to apply:

Please email a cover letter, resume, writing sample and contact information for three references to afclitigationattorney@advocatesforchildren.org with “Staff Attorney for Impact Litigation and Direct Services” in the subject line. Candidates should highlight any personal or professional experience that demonstrates their connection to the populations that AFC serves. No phone calls, please. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. We are seeking to fill this position quickly.

Compensation:

Generous benefits are offered. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

AFC is an affirmative action employer that actively encourages applications from a broad spectrum of people, including people of color, with disabilities, and of diverse religions, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations and socioeconomic backgrounds.