

**STAFF ATTORNEY – 3 YEAR POSITION
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF
SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS) PROGRAM**

Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) is looking for a Staff Attorney for DRP's PABSS Program for a three-year term. The PABSS (Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security) program works to assist beneficiaries of Social Security disability benefits to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment in fully integrated and inclusive settings. The PABSS staff attorney reports to the Managing Attorneys and Legal Director of DRP.

DRP encourages applications from BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and the disability community. Our identity, experience, and unique perspectives connect us with the diversity within the disability community and the larger civil rights movement. DRP is a workplace where individuals bring their authentic selves to work, our built environment is physically accessible, our IT department ensures that all our content is accessible, and we provide a variety of accommodations to our staff. If you need a reasonable accommodation during the application process, please contact Peri Jude Radecic, CEO at pradecic@disabilityrightspa.org. DRP is engaging in diversity, equity, and inclusion evaluation and training and is committed to learning and improvement in these areas.

DRP is a great place to work! We have a [flexible work policy](#) and a [generous benefits package](#). The salary range for this position is \$70,000 to \$85,000, depending on experience.

DRP is a private, nonprofit organization with offices in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Since 1977, DRP has been the protection and advocacy agency in Pennsylvania, operating under the authority of nine federal statutes and regulations and funded largely through federal appropriations. These federal programs exist to protect people with disabilities against abuse, neglect, and to provide legal and advocacy assistance to those whose rights are violated in areas like special education, housing, public access, employment, waiver services, and more.

DRP protects and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities so that they may live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and segregation. For 45 years, DRP has offered free legal

and advocacy services statewide to people with disabilities on issues that fall within its annual program goals and objectives. To view DRP's goal and objectives, visit <https://www.disabilityrightspa.org/what-we-do/priorities/>. DRP offers legal and advocacy services, training, information and referral, and outreach. All services are accessed through a toll-free intake system at 1-800-692-7443. DRP uses litigation, investigations and monitoring, policy advocacy, and education to achieve its mission.

DRP is part of a national system of protection and advocacy agencies created by Congress in the early 1970's to stop abuse and neglect. Since then, DRP's mandate has grown with the passage of laws that have expanded the rights of people with disabilities. To learn more about the protection and advocacy network, visit <https://www.ndrn.org/>.

More about the PABSS Staff Attorney Position

The successful candidate will work with DRP's PABSS Coordinator and the Managing Attorneys to advance the goals and objectives for the PABSS Program as set forth in a workplan and derived from DRP's organizational priorities. This involves identifying and performing work related to addressing barriers to employment, including discrimination in education, employment, transportation, and housing. The successful candidate will engage in litigation, client representation, investigations and monitoring, individual and state-wide legal and policy advocacy, training, and outreach.

Specifically, the Staff Attorney for DRP's PABSS Program will focus their work on these goals:

- *Promote and expand employment of persons with disabilities*
- *Reach unserved and underserved communities, including providing training and outreach to people with disabilities and other interested persons/ organizations*
- *Advocate for transition-age youth seeking services to enter employment and post-secondary education leading to employment*
- *Advocate for supports for persons with disabilities to participate fully in the workplace*

Essential Functions:

1. Manages assigned tasks from Legal Director and Managing Attorney.
2. Manages own litigation and client caseload, including intake clients.
3. Files litigation and pursues legal work.
4. Thinks strategically and develops litigation opportunities.
5. Conducts legal and programmatic research and writing.
6. Participates in client intake.
7. Works collaboratively with DRP staff.
8. Participates in investigating abuse and neglect and monitoring facility conditions as needed.
9. Participates in State-level and other stakeholder forums to identify systemic barriers in the employment of people with disabilities.
10. Prepares reports and publications related to PABSS Program goals and objectives.
11. Conducts trainings and participates in outreach.
12. Uses computer 6 to 8 hours per day and spends 2 to 4 hours per day in meetings. The position requires working under a moderate degree of stress (time constraints, deadlines, adherence to grant requirements, conflict resolution, complex issues, etc.).
13. Requires some travel to all areas of the Commonwealth, including some overnight travel. Occasional out-of-state travel may be required.

Minimum Requirements

- Applicants must be licensed to practice in Pennsylvania.
- Applicants must possess analytical abilities, initiative, creativity, and sound judgment.
- Applicants should be able to work individually and collaboratively as part of a team in a collegial environment to move projects forward.
- Experience specific to the rights of individuals with disabilities is preferred but not required.
- Applicants must be willing and able to comply with DRP's COVID-19 vaccination policy.
- Specific to this position, applicants must be willing to engage in and successfully complete the Social Security Administration's suitability process prior to a final offer of employment. Once employed, the successful candidate must participate in and complete all required trainings for the PABSS program.

Disclaimer:

This position description serves as a general summary and overview of the major duties and responsibilities of the job. It is not intended to represent the entirety of the job nor is it intended to be all-inclusive. Management reserves the right to modify or rescind this position description at any time, with or without prior notice. Continued employment remains on an "at-will" basis.

How to Apply:

Send resume, cover letter, writing sample, and three references to recruiting@disabilityrightspa.org. In the subject line, please write "Staff Attorney – PABSS Program"

Position will remain open until filled.

October 2022