

STAFF ATTORNEY – 2 YEAR POSITION PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) is looking for a staff attorney to advance our work in protecting the rights of people with disabilities to be free from discrimination, abuse and neglect in the receipt of government services and in public accommodations, employment, voting, education and housing. Specifically, this attorney will focus their work on advocacy to increase access to Assistive Technology for children and adults, in education, employment, and all aspects of daily living.

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 Radevic, 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 Assistive Technology Staff Attorney Position

DRP engages in litigation, legal and policy advocacy, and outreach and education to advance the rights of people with disabilities. DRP also conducts monitorings and investigations related to abuse and neglect of people with disabilities who reside in facilities. The successful candidate for this position will have opportunity to work across all of these areas.

The successful candidate will work directly with the Managing Attorney of Intake, Case Services, & Grants Management to identify and perform work related to matters involving Assistive Technology including individual and state-wide legal advocacy, training, and outreach.

The successful candidate will work directly with the Managing Attorney of Investigations & Monitoring to conduct monitorings at facilities throughout the state, to provide information and advice to residents on rights and access to AT, as well as assisting with report writing.

The successful candidate will work directly with the Managing Attorney of Litigation to pursue litigation related to access to AT and other advocacy in these areas.

Essential Functions:

1. Manages own litigation and client caseload, including intake clients.
2. Files litigation and pursues legal work.
3. Thinks strategically and develops litigation opportunities.
4. Conducts legal and programmatic research and writing.
5. Participates in client intake.
6. Works collaboratively with DRP staff.
7. Participates in investigating abuse and neglect and monitoring facility conditions as needed.
8. Participates in State-level and other stakeholder forums to identify systemic barriers in access to assistive technology for people with disabilities.
9. Prepares reports and publications related to program goals and objectives.
10. Conducts trainings and participates in outreach.
11. 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.).
12. 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.

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 – AT Program”

Position will remain open until filled.

October 2022