

**Disability Appeals Staff Attorney**  
**Urban Justice Center, Mental Health Project**

The Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center (MHP) seeks a full-time Staff Attorney to represent clients with mental illness in appealing the denial of their claims for Social Security disability benefits. MHP is a team of attorneys, social workers, and advocates dedicated to enforcing the rights of low-income New Yorkers with mental health concerns.

Responsibilities include:

- Working closely with our interdisciplinary team of attorneys, advocates, and social workers to represent Social Security disability claimants with mental illness in administrative hearings and appeals;
- Maintaining a busy caseload and participating in all aspects of case development and hearing preparation, including intake, requests for medical evidence, written memoranda and oral advocacy;
- Contributing to MHP's systemic advocacy efforts;
- Participating in federal court litigation;
- Conducting outreach and trainings for mental health consumers and providers;
- Supervising volunteers and interns; and
- Maintaining databases and assisting with grant renewals and reporting.

Qualifications include:

- J.D., with a minimum of at least two years' experience practicing law strongly preferred;
- Knowledge of Social Security benefits programs is strongly preferred;
- Excellent research, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills;
- Communication skills, the ability to maintain confidentiality and to work with people living with mental illness;
- Ability to work independently, manage a high caseload, stay organized, meet deadlines, and work under pressure;
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest or pro bono work or to advocating for persons with mental health concerns;
- Ability to work as a member of a team;
- Advocacy skills, and the ability to navigate bureaucratic agencies;
- Proficiency in Spanish or another foreign language is a plus.

Salary DOE. Excellent benefits. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, references and writing sample to [mhpjobs@urbanjustice.org](mailto:mhpjobs@urbanjustice.org). Please write "Disability Appeals Staff Attorney" in the email subject line. Due to high volume, we are unable to respond to all applicants and will contact only those candidates selected for further consideration.

This is a bargaining unit position represented for collective bargaining purposes by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW, Local 2320.

The Urban Justice Center is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, religion/creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, victim of domestic violence status or marital status.