

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH LITIGATION UNIT

Position Posting

February 3, 2011

Staff Attorney Bridgewater State Hospital Commitment Unit

The Mental Health Litigation Unit (MHLU) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) will establish a Bridgewater State Hospital Commitment Unit in the spring of 2011. The office will be located in proximity to Bridgewater, very likely in Brockton, and will be comprised of the Attorney-in-Charge, three staff attorneys and an administrative assistant. In anticipation of the Commitment Unit's opening, MHLU is now seeking three (3) full-time staff attorneys.

Duties:

Staff attorneys will provide zealous representation in mental health cases, primarily to indigent males in proceedings seeking initial commitment to, continued confinement at, or authorization to treat by, the Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH), a psychiatric facility operated by the Massachusetts Department of Correction. Attorneys will appear primarily in District Court sessions conducted at BSH and in Superior Court divisions within Plymouth County, but may be required to represent clients in proceedings emanating from other facilities and conducted in other courts of the Commonwealth.

To that end, they will be expected to:

- Visit with and interview clients at BSH;
- Conduct pre-trial investigation and discovery, including reviewing BSH and other medical and psychiatric records and interviewing BSH staff;
- Work extensively with forensic psychiatric and psychological clinicians;
- Locate and interview witnesses and consult with service providers;
- Conduct legal research and writing; and
- Represent clients in pretrial proceedings, hearings, and interlocutory appeals

Staff attorneys will be supervised by and report to the Commitment Unit Attorney-in-Charge.

Requirements:

Applicants must be members in good standing of the Massachusetts bar, or be licensed in another jurisdiction and eligible to practice in Massachusetts under Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:04. Preference will be given to attorneys who are currently certified to accept CPCS mental health

assignments. Access to reliable transportation in order to travel to courts, BSH and other mental health facilities, and other locations is required. Foreign language skills are desirable.

Salary:

The salaries for these positions are based upon experience.

Anticipated Start Date:

The anticipated starting date is May 1, 2011.

Application:

Interested candidates should submit a written statement of interest, resume, and the names of at least two (2) professional references **by email** no later than **February 18, 2011** to:

Stan Goldman
Director of Mental Health Litigation
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The Committee for Public Counsel Services is an equal opportunity employer.
The agency actively seeks to diversify its workforce.