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YOUTH ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT Attorneys for Case Assignments Revocation of (DYS) Grants of Conditional Liberty

The Youth Advocacy Department (YAD), the juvenile defender department of CPCS, is establishing a small one year project in Suffolk County to provide representation to DYS committed youth facing revocation of their Grants of Conditional Liberty (GCL). GCL revocation proceedings are due process administrative hearings held within the Department of Youth Services. The attorneys in this project will work closely with the Department of Youth Services regarding notice of assignment of cases and access to relevant records.

YAD is seeking attorneys to represent youth on revocation cases. YAD will provide an introductory training for the panel, as well as ongoing support and oversight. Once accepted to the GCL Revocation Panel, attorneys will be assigned on a case by case basis. Excellent advocacy skills are required, as well as scheduling flexibility in order to assure availability to meet promptly with clients and prepare thoroughly for hearings within seven or fewer days as required by the DYS regulations. An ability to identify and access community based services quickly and effectively is necessary.

YAD is committed to ensuring that every indigent child in Massachusetts has access to zealous legal representation in delinquency and youthful offender cases at all critical stages, including GCL revocation proceedings.

Job Description

- Represent youth committed to the Department of Youth Services who are facing revocation of their grant of conditional liberty:
 - Be on call for case assignments, which may arise on weekdays and weekends;
 - Meet with client in person at least once prior to hearing, obtain all discovery, contact collaterals including prior counsel where practicable and appropriate;
 - Advocate for youth and represent their interests at the revocation hearing;

- Advocate for the youth and represent their interests at the Regional Review Team, where appropriate;
 - Pursue administrative appeals, where appropriate.
- Each panel member will be an independent contractor and, depending on the caseload, can bill up to 1800 hours per fiscal year. This panel is separate and distinct from all other CPCS panels.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with juvenile justice system, DYS, and administrative hearings
- Experience working with court involved youth
- Familiarity with community, educational, and social service system in Suffolk County
- Familiarity with DCF, DMH, DPH, DDS, and CBHI
- Significant scheduling flexibility to assure availability for thorough preparation and presentation of cases in a short time frame
- Driver's License and access to a car
- Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar
- Fluency in a second language

Compensation

Attorneys will be paid on an hourly basis of \$50/hour, equivalent to the rate paid for delinquency appointments.

Application

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, and legal writing sample electronically to:

Eva Chan
Youth Advocacy Department
Committee for Public Counsel Services
echan@publiccounsel.net

The letter of interest should include a description of the candidate's trial and other advocacy experience. Applications should also include a writing sample and a list of references. Applications should be submitted by September 7, 2010, but may be accepted until the panel is filled. Interviewing may begin prior to September 7th.

The Committee for Public Counsel Services is an equal opportunity employer.

Date of Posting: August 13, 2010