

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

44 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108

Position Posting

Social Services Advocate Boston District and Superior Court Offices

The Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts public defender agency, is seeking to fill a full time Social Services Advocate position for the Boston District and Superior Court offices.

Position Summary:

The Social Services Advocate in these Public Defender Division offices is an integral member of the criminal defense team. Led by the attorney, the defense team provides zealous criminal defense and advocacy services to indigent defendants who are charged with criminal offenses. The Social Services Advocate works with the attorney, investigator and other team members to prepare a client's case and to obtain the best possible legal outcome for the client. The role includes client bio-psychosocial interviewing and assessment, social history investigation, clinical case management, alternative treatment and sentencing planning, report writing, testifying, and making direct connections between clients and programs. Social services intervention occurs at all stages of the court process, from arraignment through post-conviction.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in social work, human services, criminal justice, psychology or related field required; Master's degree in social work, psychology or related field preferred
- Knowledge of social, psychological, economic, legal and medical factors that influence the behavior
- Skills in client interviewing, assessment, case management and treatment planning
- Skills in interacting with persons of various social, racial, cultural, economic and educational backgrounds
- Knowledge of public and private social services systems and resources
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and persuasively orally and in writing
- Proven ability to work effectively as part of a team and independently
- Must be able to work occasional evenings and weekends to meet with clients, bring clients to programs, attend meetings, conduct collateral interviews, and handle emergencies
- Must have insured, reliable and available transportation, and a valid MA driver's license
- Must have no criminal convictions
- Knowledge of defense practice, the criminal justice system, and/or corrections is a plus, but not required
- Bilingual abilities are a plus

The Social Services Advocate works under the supervision of the Social Services Advocates Director, with administrative direction provided by the Superior Court office head and District Court director. As part of the defense team, the Social Services Advocate will take direction on a case from the lead attorney and work collaboratively with investigators, secretarial staff, retained experts, law students and other interns. The Social Services Advocate must adhere to the rules of confidentiality under the attorney-client relationship.

Salary & Benefits: Commensurate with experience

Application: Applications should be submitted by January 31, 2012 but may be accepted until the position is filled.

Interested candidates can email a written statement of interest and résumé to: SSAdvocate@publiccounsel.net.

This office is an equal opportunity employer.

The agency actively seeks to diversify its workforce.

Date of posting: January 17, 2012.