

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

Mental Health Litigation Unit

ATTORNEY-IN-CHARGE

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 spring 2011. In anticipation of the Commitment Unit’s opening, MHLU is now seeking a full-time attorney to serve as the unit’s Attorney-in-Charge.

The office will be located in proximity to Bridgewater, likely in Brockton. Staff attorneys will represent all indigent men against whom are filed petitions under G.L. c. 123.

Description of Office:

The Bridgewater State Hospital Commitment Unit will be comprised of the Attorney-in-Charge, three staff attorneys and an administrative assistant. The caseload will consist of all proceedings seeking the initial commitment to, the continued confinement at, or the authorization to treat by, the Bridgewater State Hospital of indigent males. Attorneys will appear primarily in District Court sessions conducted at the hospital and in Superior Court divisions within Plymouth County, but may be required to appear in Superior Court divisions elsewhere in the Commonwealth as necessary.

Requirements:

Candidates for the position of Attorney-in-Charge must be eligible to practice law in Massachusetts and be certified to accept mental health assignments through CPCS. In addition, they must possess:

- substantial litigation experience, at least ten (10) years of which must be in the practice of mental health law;
- substantial administrative, managerial and supervisory experience;
- strong leadership, interpersonal and analytical skills;
- knowledge of Bridgewater State Hospital regulations, procedures and practices (preferred); and
- familiarity with Massachusetts criminal justice practice (preferred).

The Attorney-in-Charge will be supervised by and report to the Director of Mental Health Litigation.

Duties:

The Attorney-in-Charge will assume full responsibility for the Unit’s operations and is expected to:

- assist attorney staff in the development of trial strategies and skills, motion practice, and other tasks required of successful trial attorneys; ensure that cases are assigned appropriately, attorneys' schedules and caseloads are reasonable, and files and case statistics are properly maintained;
- supervise attorneys, provide in-house training, and disseminate information about developments in the law and other relevant matters;
- supervise and manage non-attorney support staff;
- complete annual staff performance evaluations in a timely and comprehensive manner; and
- become familiar with CPCS personnel policies and ensure staff compliance with the provisions of those policies.

In addition, the Attorney-in-Charge will be required to carry a significant caseload and attend regular meetings of the Mental Health Litigation Unit. He or she also will be expected to maintain a professional relationship and leadership role with the local judiciary and private mental health bar.

Salary:

Commensurate with experience.

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 **December 17, 2010** to:

Stan Goldman
Director of Mental Health Litigation
sgoldman@publiccounsel.net

This office is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

The agency actively seeks to diversify its workforce.