



## **LCYC IS SEEKING AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN**

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC) seeks to improve the lives of Washington's dependent children by providing them with legal counsel and advocacy. LCYC is in search of a zealous advocate, a staff attorney, to serve children in Washington's dependency system. LCYC's staff attorney will represent children at all stages of the juvenile dependency proceedings. In doing so, the staff attorney must be able to build a professional and trusting relationship with clients, counsel clients in a developmentally appropriate manner, and provide superb legal advocacy in and out of court.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title:** Legal Counsel for Youth and Children Staff Attorney

**Employee Classification:** Paid hourly, overtime-exempt professional

**Employee Reports to:** LCYC Executive Director

**Employee Serves:** Children in Washington (all ages)

### **Primary Duties:**

- Represent child clients through the King County Office of Public Defense Conflict Counsel Panel at all phases of dependency proceedings.
- Engage children in the dependency process through regular in-person attorney-client meetings. Interview and counsel children on their legal rights, options and the potential consequences of decisions. Assist children in creating declarations for court and prepare them for court appearances.
- Provide zealous advocacy to children in dependency cases in protecting their legal rights within the dependency, such as ensuring family contact, placement issues and permanency. The child's goals may be met through an arranged team meeting or by motion of the court. The attorney will need to routinely assess and strategize on how to best meet the child's legal goals. Advocacy for dependent children may extend to realms of family law and education.
- Communicate and collaborate with other people involved in the case such as parents' attorneys, siblings' attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Assistant Attorney Generals, social workers, therapists, foster parents, family members, educators and other service providers.
- Investigate the case, including to interview and/or subpoena witnesses determined to be helpful to the case; analyze facts in light of relevant legal considerations; conduct legal research; prepare litigation strategy, prepare legal memoranda, motions and briefs, and argue specific legal motions and pleadings; litigate evidentiary hearings; examine and cross-examine witnesses.
- Participate in meetings with LCYC's Executive Director to staff cases and on general office upkeep duties, including computer data entry of case information, file upkeep, time tracking, reporting and billing.
- Participate in trainings to continually improve the advocacy provided to the children LCYC serves.



### **Minimum Qualifications:**

- Active member in good standing of the State Bar of Washington.
- Minimum of three years' experience as a practicing attorney; work/externships/internships in juvenile dependencies or a related child welfare, education or indigent defense field is strongly preferred.
- Ability to drive with valid driver's license, auto insurance, and access to use of an automobile as needed.
- Strong skills in legal research, analysis, writing, negotiations and oral argument.
- Ability to communicate legal concepts, options and potential outcomes in a developmentally appropriate manner with children. Ability to work professionally with children and develop a relationship of trust and confidence.
- Ability to understand and apply the Washington Rules of Professional conduct in advocating for children, both verbal and non-verbal.
- Demonstrated interest and ability in working with children and families of diverse racial, cultural, socio-economic and age backgrounds and inspire their confidence.
- Ability to work collaboratively with others – colleagues, other counsel, service providers, educators, Court Appointed Special Advocates, foster and birth families, and the judiciary.
- Ability to work under supervision and respond to training.
- Ability to work independently and be self-motivated.
- Comfort in using basic computer programs such as Word, Excel, and Adobe to organize and accurately track case information and time.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and a list of three references to the following mailing address and/or email address.

Mail hard copies to:

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children  
P.O. Box 16083  
Seattle, WA 98116

Or Email pdf to:

[lcyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lcyinfo@gmail.com)

**Applications must be post marked or emailed by Tuesday, February 21, 2012.**

Final applicants will be contacted for interviews. Hiring will be contingent on satisfactory results of a background check. LCYC is committed to promoting an environment free of barriers and discriminatory practices for its clients, Board and staff.

Thank you for your interest in serving Washington's dependent children!

To learn more about the efforts of LCYC in improving the lives of dependent children through legal counsel and advocacy please visit us online at [www.lcywa.com](http://www.lcywa.com).