

Staff Attorney/Attorney for the Child, Lawyers For Children

ABOUT LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN

When children are before the New York City Family Courts, the biggest decisions in their lives can often be made for them, without their input. At Lawyers For Children, our mission is to give children a voice in the decisions that critically impact their lives. Since LFC's founding in 1984, our attorneys and social workers have been listening to their clients, protecting their legal rights, and empowering them with the tools and resources they need to grow and thrive.

Lawyers For Children utilizes a pioneering interdisciplinary staffing model, wherein a lawyer and social worker, both with extensive experience and training, work together on *every* case. In addition, LFC was the first children's law office in the country to employ two full-time Youth Advocates (young adults who have successfully aged out of foster care) to provide additional support for older clients. Each LFC team is thus comprised of individuals with expertise in both the law and the full range of existing services available to ensure a successful future for every one of our young clients.

Since 1984, we have represented almost 50,000 children in New York City court proceedings involving: voluntary foster care placement, abuse, neglect, delinquency, PINS, termination of parental rights, custody and visitation, adoption, guardianship, and paternity. We listen carefully to our clients, help them understand their options and vigorously protect their right to a safe, secure and supportive place to call home. For some clients, this means returning to live safely with their families. For others, it means speeding up the adoption process. For many of our clients who are over 18, the goal is to set out on their own with stable housing, a stable source of income, and the knowledge and support necessary to live independently and embark on successful careers of their own.

Each year, our staff of close to seventy professionals represents over 3,000 individual children in more than 6,000 court proceedings. Our advocacy helps children find safe and loving homes and helps minimize the trauma of court and child welfare intervention in their lives. We also help youth aging out of foster care access the education, housing,

and employment they need to transition to independence. We are continuously evolving our practice with special projects that focus on the most vulnerable and underserved among our clients, including LGBTQ youth, children with special educational needs, youth who have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation, children living with intimate partner violence, respondents in delinquency and PINS proceedings, and young people with immigration challenges. Our Public Policy and Special Litigation project tracks recurring challenges for young people across all of our individual cases and uses this data to promote comprehensive reform of the foster care system through both legislative advocacy and class action litigation.

PROFILE

Lawyers For Children has a new opening for an experienced staff attorney. The attorney will be part of a dynamic team of attorneys and social workers providing the highest quality advocacy on behalf of children in New York City's Family Courts.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Lawyers For Children attorneys work alongside our social workers, as a team. Duties include client interviews, investigation, trial preparation/strategy, preparation of legal memos and motions, general courtroom advocacy in trials/colloquy, and oral advocacy as necessary for case conferences and case follow-up. LFC's attorneys are leaders in the provision of legal services to children and young adults in child protective, foster care, custody, visitation, termination of parental rights guardianship, adoption, delinquency and related proceedings.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Admitted to NYS Bar
- Minimum of 2 years litigation experience in NYS Family Courts
- Demonstrated commitment to the rights of children and youth
- Commitment to interdisciplinary practice of law using an attorney-social worker team model
- Ability to work efficiently and effectively under pressure and in crisis situations

- Well-organized, motivated, creative and independent
- Skilled at working in a team-oriented environment
- Commitment to providing culturally sensitive services
- Excellent verbal, interpersonal, writing, and interviewing skills

For more information about Lawyers For Children visit: www.lawyersforchildren.org

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Lawyers For Children offers competitive salary and benefits, commensurate with experience and skills. LFC is an equal opportunity employer.