



Job Posting
STAFF LAWYER
1-year Parental Leave Contract

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic offers legal services and representation, trauma-informed counselling and multilingual interpretation to diverse women (self identified), non-binary, intersex, and Two-Spirit people who have experienced violence. We cultivate skills and resilience by fostering safety, dignity and equality and we amplify voices to create individual and collective change. Together with our donors and volunteers, we are active in changing the conditions that create environments of violence and oppression.

The Clinic's Legal Department provides services in family and immigration law, and independent legal advice to survivors of sexual assault.

We are seeking a lawyer, with experience in feminist legal advocacy and gender-based violence for a full-time, 1-year contract to fill a parental leave.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All duties and responsibilities will be carried out in accordance with Barbra Schlifer Clinic's Mandate, Mission and Values Statements.

CLIENT SERVICES AND REPRESENTATION

- Trauma-informed representation of clients in family law matters before Family Courts in Toronto.
- Provide summary legal advice, brief intervention/advocacy services to women survivors of gender-based violence in the areas of family law, immigration, refugee law and criminal law
- Assist self-represented clients in the drafting of various litigation documents and pleadings in family law matters, including applications, affidavits, financial statements, case conference briefs, settlement and trial management conference briefs and net family property statements, etc
- Assess urgent legal matters and prioritize client issues/casework
- Provide independent legal advice for sexual assault survivors

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY/LAW REFORM

- Engage in the design and delivery of professional development and public legal education presentations on issues relevant to gender-based violence and the law
- Support Director of Legal Services with appellate advocacy
- Participate in various external stakeholder committees and coalitions to represent and promote the interests of survivors of violence

STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- Assist in the delivery of orientation/training, supervision and evaluation of Clinic's law students and volunteers.

RESEARCH

- Keep apprised of, and updated on case law, statutes and regulations relating to the practice of family law, immigration law and general legal issues related to gender-based violence

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER

- Follow appropriate file/case management practices and maintain clear and complete client records
- Collect and report statistics as required by the Clinic
- Attend Legal Department and Clinic-wide meetings
- Engage in annual program planning and program evaluation where appropriate
- Comply with all Clinic policies and procedures as revised from time to time

SUPERVISION, TRAINING AND ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Participate in orientation, training and ongoing professional development programs as may be required by the Clinic and the Law Society of Ontario to ensure proficiency in all areas of responsibility
- Attend knowledge enhancement sessions organized by the Clinic
- Participate in ongoing supervision and periodic performance evaluations, as may be required by the Clinic

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- The Staff Lawyer is a member of the Clinic's Legal Department. The Staff Lawyer will be a collaborative and supportive member of the Legal Department team and will work collaboratively with other staff and Departments, as appropriate.
- The Staff Lawyer will report to and be supervised by the Director of Legal Services.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Membership in good standing in the Law Society of Ontario
- 1-2 years' experience in the practice of family law with specific expertise in feminist legal advocacy
- Experience and/or familiarity with Canadian immigration law is an asset
- Ability to empathize and communicate well with clients in a non-judgmental manner
- Demonstrated ability to advocate strongly on behalf of clients and to engage in community development, public legal education, professional development and law reform on issues relevant to survivors of gender-based violence
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, time-management and problem-solving skills; written and oral communication skills
- Intermediate/advanced level skills in various computer applications and utilization of other office technology
- Understanding of legal and social issues of violence against women and gender-based violence consistent with a feminist, intersectional, anti-oppression analysis
- Commitment to working cooperatively in an inclusive, woman-positive, multi-disciplinary environment
- Fluency in a language other than English is an asset

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Commitment to working collaboratively with and supporting women of diversity within the context of a diverse agency
- Engagement in a self-reflective, ethical and collaborative practice that is non-judgmental and empathic and reflects the vision and mission statements of the Clinic
- Incorporation of principles of diversity and equity in responding to the service needs of women;
- Commitment to working toward removing systemic barriers to women's independence and wellbeing
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, time-management and problem-solving skills, written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work and support others in the context of a diverse environment
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a multi-disciplinary environment
- Be a self-starter, creative and highly motivated
- Share ideas and differences in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation
- Commitment to ongoing personal and professional development

SALARY: Starting salary for this position is \$66,580 annually and it includes a comprehensive benefits package offered through a group plan as part of our United Way membership following a successful probationary period, and pro-rated payment of Law Society Membership fees and Law Pro Insurance coverage.

DEADLINE FOR RESUMES: May 16, 2021 - posting will remain active until a suitable candidate is engaged

APPLICATION: Submit your cover letter and resume in ONE attachment to: hr@schliferclinic.com with the subject line of Staff Lawyer. In your cover letter, please indicate where you found our job posting.

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes candidates from equity-seeking groups and is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities. Please let us know if you require accommodation due to a disability during any aspect of the recruitment process, and we will work with you to address your needs.

We thank all candidates for their interest. However, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE