PARALEGAL INTERN

Children’s Rights is seeking a part-time undergraduate intern to join an active litigation program committed to reforming child welfare services for abused and neglected children. Children’s Rights is a national advocacy organization that has, for over 25 years, championed the legal rights of children impacted by government systems. Every day, children are harmed by America’s broken child welfare, juvenile justice, education, immigration, and healthcare systems. These systems disproportionately harm children of color, LGBTQ/TGNC, and other minority youth. Children’s Rights uses civil rights impact litigation, policy expertise, and public education to hold governments accountable for keeping all kids safe and healthy.

Our work tackles a variety of historic and emerging social justice issues impacting children. Recent campaigns have targeted, for example, broken child welfare systems, unconstitutional conditions of confinement in juvenile detention facilities, the failure to provide adequate mental and physical health services to vulnerable children, the unjust treatment of unaccompanied immigrant minors, the pervasive practice of administering powerful and dangerous psychotropic drugs to children in foster care without adequate oversight, the systemic discrimination against LGBTQ/TGNC youth in custodial settings, and the grave outcomes for older youth “aging” out of government systems. We are keenly aware of the intersectionality that renders specific youth populations even more vulnerable to systemic failures.

Job Summary:

Undergraduate students interested in public interest law, the legal system, child welfare, social services, and/or reform of government systems would find an internship at Children’s Rights to be an interesting and rewarding experience. Many former paralegals and paralegal interns at Children’s Rights have gone on to law school or other related graduate degree programs.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Providing administrative support primarily to our legal teams, with potential projects for our development and communications teams;
- Assisting with case-related tasks, including fielding intake calls from stakeholders in states around the country and monitoring press and relevant legislation;
- Reviewing primary and secondary child welfare sources, including case-specific documentation from child welfare agencies;
- Preparing memoranda on specific foster care or case-related issues;
- Pursuing factual research and data analysis.
Experience and Qualifications:

Children’s Rights seeks interns who are interested in children’s issues and/or social services and committed to reform on behalf of abused and neglected children. Candidates in their junior or senior year of college are preferred, though all undergraduate candidates with relevant experience will be considered. Candidates must be available to volunteer at least one and one-half days per week (10-12) hours per week and must be detail-oriented and well organized, with strong writing and critical thinking skills, and who are excited to contribute to and observe all aspects of an advocacy non-profit. Knowledge of children's issues, social services, social justice, civil rights, racial justice, LGBTQ issues, juvenile justice and/or other areas of our work is a plus. Applicants with prior personal involvement in the systems we fight to improve and/or with other diverse life experiences and perspectives are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit our website: www.childrensrights.org.

Due to safety concerns relating to COVID-19, the entire internship will be conducted remotely, and all your training and supervision will be remote. Start and end dates are flexible, but a minimum commitment of ten (10) weeks is desired. Internships at Children's Rights are unpaid, though we are happy to support interns in seeking outside funding and/or course credit from their schools.

Physical and Travel Requirements:

Prolonged periods sitting and/or standing at a desk and working on a computer. No travel is required.

To Apply:

Please submit a detailed cover letter outlining your interest and experience, a current resume, and college transcript (unofficial transcripts are fine) by Wednesday, September 9, 2020. We will be accepting and reviewing applications on a rolling basis. Only applicants of interest will be contacted for an interview. Please email your application to parainternship@childrensrights.org, addressed to Clare Connaughton.

Children's Rights is an equal employment opportunity employer, and women, people of color, LGBTQ and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities, and people with unique lived experience or diverse professional or personal backgrounds and perspectives are encouraged to apply.