

Job Description

CLSSD Post Bar Law Clerk

Children's Legal Services of San Diego, Inc. (CLSSD) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation, which advocates for children and youth who are the subject of abuse and neglect proceedings in the San Diego County juvenile dependency court system. CLSSD is dedicated to high quality, comprehensive legal representation. Our firms are court-appointed to represent both minors and non-minor dependents in Juvenile Dependency Courts in San Diego County. At CLS, diversity, in the fullest sense of the word, which includes not only race and ethnicity, but also gender, sexual orientation, age, lifestyle, and abilities, is valued.

CLSSD, located in the Kearny Mesa area of San Diego, is seeking a Post Bar Law Clerk. The Post Bar Law Clerk is under the supervision of an experienced CLSSD attorney. The Post Bar Law Clerk will have the opportunity to directly represent CLSSD's clients in all aspects of their dependency court proceedings. This is a 14-week position beginning in August and ending in November 2021. Upon passage of the July 2021 Exam and admission to the California State Bar, the Post Bar Law Clerk will be considered for, but not guaranteed, employment with CLS if there are available positions.

The primary duties of the Post Bar Law Clerk include, but are not limited to:

- Weekly court appearances;
- Development and execution of effective case strategy, including calling witnesses, making oral arguments, marking and admitting evidence, and writing motions;
- Communication with clients in child-friendly, age-appropriate ways – exercising best practices in discussing sensitive/traumatic topics;
- Participation in ongoing training to ensure a deep understanding of relevant local, state, and federal statutes, case law, and legal obligations under the California Welfare and Institutions Code;
- Compliance with the Rules of Professional conduct and all other authority regarding legal ethics;
- Practice a holistic model of client representation, considering factors including an analysis of their client's mental health, educational needs, emotional development, important relationships, and cultural roots;
- Develop expertise in child-friendly interviewing skills;
- Prepare clients to testify in court when necessary.

Qualifications:

- Juris Doctor Degree.
- Completion of the July 2021 California State Bar Exam.
- Ability to obtain certification through the PTLIS Program of the State Bar during the Post Bar Law Clerk period. CLSSD will, as needed, assist the successful candidate in obtaining certification
- Prior experience as a CLSSD Intern, in child welfare or trial experience helpful but not required.
- A valid California driver's license, reliable automobile, automobile insurance as required by California law, is required at all times while working for Children's Legal Services of San Diego.
- Ability to communicate, or desire for continuing education, in a trauma-informed and culturally appropriate manner with persons of diverse backgrounds, including race, ethnicity, SOGIE, socioeconomic status, culture, etc.

TO APPLY, PLEASE SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO

JOELLEL@CLSSANDIEGO.ORG