



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position LEAP Attorney

Status 15-hours of pro-bono and 35-hours of sliding scale legal services per month

Hours Flexible

Responsible To: LEAP Managing Attorney

Application Deadline: November 15 (extended)

About Clackamas Women's Services (CWS)

Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) was incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first shelter for women and children escaping family violence and domestic abuse. CWS' service delivery framework is built on trauma-informed best practices that promote safety and self-determination. Our vision is to live in a society that no longer tolerates domestic and sexual violence, but rather thrives on mutual respect.

CWS offers comprehensive, responsive solutions for adults and children impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, the sex industry, and elder abuse. Through our confidential emergency shelter, our rural outreach office, the DHS branches and A Safe Place Family Justice Center, CWS coordinates services with other public and private agencies in order to best serve survivors seeking help. Participants in our programs receive no-cost services by highly trained staff.

Position Purpose:

Without legal assistance, survivors of domestic and sexual violence face profound barriers on their pathways to safety, justice and healing. High-priority areas include protective orders, child support, custody, divorce, immigration status, wrongful termination, landlord-tenant matters, and bankruptcy. Unfortunately, the provision of these legal services is inadequate, fragmented and inaccessible. And while access to legal assistance is key to achieving safety and self-sufficiency—national studies show that access to an attorney can increase survivors' likelihood of obtaining a civil restraining order from 32% to 86%—this need remains unmet for the majority of survivors and their children.

This accelerator program helps launch the solo practice careers of new attorneys as well as those returning to the practice after an extended absence. The LEAP program provides entrepreneurial spirited lawyers with the skills to build and sustain a modest means of practice across a wide range of practice areas. The LEAP cohorts agree to represent participants referred by Clackamas Women's Services with 15-hours of pro-bono and 35-hours of sliding scale legal services per month. In exchange, these new solos will gain invaluable professional experience while learning in a collaborative supportive environment.

Key Responsibilities:

The LEAP Attorney will have the opportunity to gain valuable family law litigation experience, including, but not limited to the following:

- Working with other members of the LEAP team to develop and pursue litigation on behalf of CWS clients in Clackamas County;
- Assisting in all stages of litigation;
- Legal and factual research on DV/SA and other civil legal matters; and

- Legal analysis of state and federal legislation and regulations.

Qualifications:

- Strong commitment to the mission, purpose, and values of Clackamas Women's Services
- J.D. degree required;
- Must have had passed the OR state bar;
- Applicants must be capable of complex legal analysis and have the ability to write clearly and effectively;
- Willing and eager to learn family law, particularly involving DV/SA issues;
- Willingness to implement trauma informed practices into legal practice;
- Applicants must be self-motivated with strong inter-personal skills; and
- Strong oral communication skills.

What CWS will provide to you:

- Mentorship in all areas of practice start-up
- Mentorship in all practice areas
- Oregon State Bar dues and Professional Liability Insurance
- Office space
- Access to practice management software
- Inspiring environment with supportive team members

How to Apply:

1. A statement of no more than one page indicating why you want to be a solo- or small-firm practitioner. (If applicable, discuss how a former work experience in the legal profession [either through an externship, internship, clinic program, or work experience prior to law school] influenced your decision to start your own practice.)
2. A statement of no more than one page indicating why you should be selected to participate in LEAP.
3. A statement explaining how you would benefit from participation in the LEAP program.
4. A current resume.
5. A statement explaining your interest in serving domestic and sexual violence victims in Clackamas County on civil legal matters (including providing pro bono and low bono representation) and how you envision incorporating alternative delivery methods (i.e., unbundling, sliding scale fee structures, etc.) into developing a solo or small firm civil legal practice.
6. A legal writing sample (not to exceed 3-pages).
7. The names, email address and contact telephone/cell number of three references (one law professor, one attorney and one non-attorney).

Please submit your application documents to Marisha Childs, LEAP Managing Attorney at: marishac@cwsor.org with subject line "LEAP Applicant".

We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce that represents the communities we serve. Women, people of color, LGBTQIA2S, older adults and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.