



Advocacy Volunteer: Legal Advocacy Support Project (LASP)

Location: Bristol Law Centre, 2 Hide Market, West Street, Bristol, BS2 0BH

Description of the role:

Volunteer law students work with the Welfare Benefits team to run appeals to the First-tier Tribunal against decisions on Personal Independence Payment. This allows many people who have no statutory right to representation to exercise their right to challenge decisions made about them.

Benefits of the role:

- Enhance legal experience through supervised casework.
- Develop advocacy skills by representing clients in front of a Judge.
- Gain specific knowledge of current issues relating to benefits appeals.
- Working as part of, and learning from, a highly experienced and knowledgeable team.
- Being able to make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable or disadvantaged people in the local community.
- A written statement of recommendation which can be used for future employment.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- Reading through appeal papers, including researching complex medical needs/conditions.
- Learning the legislation and rules around PIP (Personal Independence Payment).
- Meeting clients to help them prepare for the appeal hearing.
- Preparing written legal submissions for the tribunal.
- Representing clients at the First-tier Tribunal.

Person Specification:

- Excellent communication and organisational skills.
- Able to produce a high standard of written work and a well presented argument.
- Good attention to detail and a methodical approach to work.
- Competent in the use of Microsoft packages such as Word, Outlook and Excel.
- Friendly, approachable and non-judgmental attitude.
- A commitment to equal opportunities and confidentiality.
- Empathetic manner when working with clients and confidence in representing at the tribunal.

Required: Volunteers are required to attend a 4 hour session once per week for at least 40 out of the first 52 weeks on the project, and be available for 12 of the 18 weeks between June and September 2024. Volunteers are required to attend their sessions at the Law Centre in person.

Successful candidates are required to attend two training sessions on the evenings of the 4th and 5th of June.

Application Details: If you would like to apply for this role please return your completed application form via email to reception@bristollawcentre.org.uk by 5pm, Thursday 18th of April 2024 with the email subject as "LASP Application: ADVOCACY VOLUNTEER - [YOUR NAME]". Interviews will take place on the 24th and 25th of April.

If you have any questions, please contact Georgie Lockwood on 0117 916 7719 or georgiel@bristollawcentre.org.uk.