

Disability Rights California (DRC), the state's designated protection and advocacy agency, seeks eligible* candidates for collaboration on Skadden, Equal Justice Works, and/or other public interest fellowship applications for the two-year period beginning fall 2021.

DRC invites proposals related to the work of our Mental Health Practice Group. The Mental Health Practice Group's priority is to ensure adequate treatment for people with mental health disabilities, and to fight for the provision of accommodations, equal access, and equal opportunity. The fellow could be based out of any of our regional offices, including Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles, or San Diego.

The Mental Health Practice Group is open to various project proposals, especially proposals that address the intersectional needs of people with mental health disabilities. A few examples that we have identified and for which we might be particularly interested in sponsoring include the following:

1. **Intersectional issues in access to mental health services.**

Individuals with mental health needs as well as other intersecting identities—such as race/ethnicity/national origin as well as physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities—face additional barriers to accessible, culturally appropriate community mental health services. These services are crucial to enabling them to receive care in the community and avoid unnecessary institutionalization. DRC seeks proposals to enforce and expand federal and state disability laws in order to assist this population in accessing community-based services.

2. **The Rights of LGBTQ+ Individuals with Serious Mental Illness in Jails and other facilities.**

We have found that the majority of incarcerated LGBTQ+ people receive mental health services while in jail. This population is at heightened risk of being placed in solitary confinement, which frequently exacerbates individuals' mental health symptoms. DRC is interested in proposals for direct and systemic advocacy, either through litigation or legislation, to protect and empower this population.

3. **Direct representation in Full Service Partnerships and supportive housing.** Individuals with serious mental health disabilities have the right to an array of specialty mental health services, which may include supportive housing. However, many people fail to receive all of the services for which they are eligible. We seek proposals to provide direct representation to individuals applying for intensive services through California's Full-Service Partnerships and supportive housing programs. This proposal might include establishing a legal clinic, drafting template materials, and/or participating in systemic advocacy.

4. **Reentry from long-term psychiatric facilities.** Many individuals released from psychiatric facilities face the same barriers to accessing services as individuals released from jails, prisons, and other correctional facilities. Nevertheless, there are virtually no reentry supports available for individuals released from long-term psychiatric facilities to support them in living successfully in their communities. This project would explore various means for filling this void through litigation, educational outreach, and/or legislative advocacy.

DRC also invites eligible applicants to present innovative project proposals in any of our other advocacy priority areas: Equal Access to Public Services and Places of Public Accommodation, Employment, Healthcare, Housing, In-Home Support Services (IHSS), Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Special Education, or Voting Rights.

In addition to satisfying the fellowship's eligibility criteria, the applicant should have strong legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills, a demonstrated commitment to public interest law, and a desire to make an impact in the disability community.

To be considered please submit the below application document requirements to talent@disabilityrightsca.org. Applications must be submitted to DRC via the email portal below by **Monday, July 6, 2020**. Your application must include:

- Detailed cover letter describing the fellowship(s) in which you are interested and a brief project proposal
- Resume
- Transcript
- Writing Sample
- List of three references

If you have questions about this opportunity please contact Robert Borrelle, Supervising Attorney, by phone at (213) 213-8000 or by email at Robert.Borrelle@disabilityrightsca.org.

* Eligible applicants generally must receive their law degree before September 2021 and may not have held a full-time, permanent, public interest lawyer position previously. For specific eligibility requirements, please consult the Skadden and Equal Justice Works websites.