

CHILDREN'S LEGAL & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE ("CLERC")

SENIOR LAWYER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FULL-TIME (5 DAYS/WEEK)

The Position

CLERC is looking for a senior lawyer with a passion for working with young people and giving back to the community to join our team. We are a charitable organization providing legal support and services to children and youth in Calgary and the surrounding area since 2002. These services include legal information, advice to and representation for young people caught in their parents' high conflict custody and access/parenting disputes, as well as legal support in civil law matters such as guardianship, independent living, pregnancy and parenting, employment, return of property and landlord/tenant matters, among others. CLERC also engages in Public Legal Education (PLE) through public presentations, training, and through our website, www.youthlaw.ca

Your time will be divided between representing children and youth in family law and family law related matters and servicing CLERC clients with other legal issues. In the course of representing young people caught in their parents' high conflict custody and access/parenting disputes, you will meet with children, youth and parents; receive information from third parties (school personnel, counselors, psychologists, and parenting coordinators); and attend at docket, special hearings, case management and case management council meetings, private and Family Justice Services mediations, med/arb, DROs, JDRs and trial. While you will provide service primarily at the Court of Queen's Bench, your experience with family matters at the Provincial Court level is an asset. In addition, you will have the opportunity to take on matters with respect to pregnant and parenting teens, guardianship and related civil law issues. You will assist with responding to calls, emails and questions submitted through the CLERC website, conduct research, and develop PLE and training materials. In addition, this role involves mentoring and taking a leadership role to more junior staff lawyers and articling students (if any), providing leadership to volunteer lawyers and working closely with CLERC's CEO and Executive Director to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of legal services to CLERC's clientele.

The position is full-time (35 hours; 5 days/week). The position start date is flexible but is targeted for January 3, 2017. This position reports to CLERC's CEO & Executive Director.

Responsibilities

1. Advising and representing children and youth seeking legal assistance and support from CLERC in family law and a variety of civil law matters;
2. Supporting CLERC staff in providing information and education to a variety of stakeholders including but not limited to judges, lawyers, funders, partners, volunteers, parents, children, youth and other family members, non-profit and community agencies;
3. Participating in CLERC and community-based committees as required;
4. Providing leadership and mentoring to CLERC's junior staff lawyers; providing leadership to volunteer lawyers; and
5. Taking overall responsibility for the effective and efficient delivery of legal services to CLERC's clientele.

Key Competencies

People describe you as someone with:

1. an understanding of children's rights and child advocacy;
2. excellent writing, analytical, research and advocacy skills;
3. a solid work ethic and willingness to go the extra mile to get things done;
4. the ability to:
 - a. communicate effectively, particularly with children and youth;
 - b. represent children and youth in family law and a variety of civil law matters;
 - c. effectively manage responsibilities, clients and time;
 - d. work independently and as part of a team; and
 - e. provide leadership to the legal team.

Requirements

1. Be a member in good standing of the Alberta Law Society;
2. Have litigation experience in family law (min. 8 years), particularly custody & access/parenting;
3. Have a valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle; and
4. Submit to a Criminal Record Check and Child Welfare Intervention Check.

Experience working with and providing legal services to children and youth, even in a non-legal setting, is considered an asset. Candidates without family law experience need not apply.

To apply, please submit your cover letter and resume to clerc@clerc-calgary.ca. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Salary to commensurate with experience. This position will remain open until November 30, 2016 or such time as a suitable candidate has been selected.