

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General**



**ATTORNEY-ADVISOR
Department of Mental Health
Vacancy Announcement #OAG-13-031**

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia is seeking an experienced Attorney-Advisor to work in the Office of the General Counsel for the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

The Department of Mental Health Office of General Counsel provides legal services to all components of the Department of Mental Health, a large District agency with approximately 1,000 employees. DMH consists of the Mental Health Authority, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, and multiple community-based services, including the School-Based Mental Health Program. DMH also manages a large outpatient provider network of private mental health providers.

The Mental Health Authority provides the overall leadership and strategic direction for the District of Columbia's mental health system. The Authority sets policy, ensures access to services and support systems, trains new and existing service providers, regulates service providers, protects consumers' rights, and ensures the mental health system is accountable. Saint Elizabeth's Hospital is the District's public psychiatric facility for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who need intensive inpatient care to support their recovery. Saint Elizabeth's also provides mental health evaluations and care to patients committed by the courts.

The Attorney-Advisor will report to the General Counsel, work directly with DMH managers and handle a variety of complex health and mental health law matters involving the multiple mental health programs and services operated by DMH. The successful candidate will provide legal advice to management in all aspects of DMH programming and the delivery of public mental health services, including drafting legislation, regulations, and policies that will enhance DMH's missions and programs; researching laws, legal opinions, policies, regulations, and cases bearing on legal issues involving DMH policies and programs and providing oral and/or written opinions to the Department of Mental Health with an emphasis on compliance with the rules on the District's Mental Health Rehabilitation Services and the District's Medicaid State Plan; oversight and monitoring of contracted mental health providers; representing DMH in consumer grievance hearings and negotiating resolutions with outside counsel and community advocates; serving as the DMH Freedom of Information Act Officer; and providing litigation support to the Office of the Attorney General on cases affecting DMH. The successful candidate will also advise the agency on compliance with HIPAA and the Mental Health Information Act.

The successful candidate for this position must be a member of the DC Bar or eligible to waive into the Bar and must have a working knowledge of the operations of the District government, excellent interpersonal skills, and effective oral and written litigation skills. The successful candidate is expected to have general knowledge of federal and District health and mental health laws, including: the Ervin Act (D.C. Official Code § 21-501 *et seq.*), the District of Columbia Mental Health Information Act (D.C. Official Code § 7-1201.01 *et seq.*), the Mental Health Consumers Protection Act (D.C. Official Code § 7-1231.01

et seq.), and the Mental Health Establishment Amendment Act of 2001 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1131.01 *et seq.*).

This position is within the Collective Bargaining Unit. Candidates for the position may be subject to a background check. This position is a 13-month term appointment and subject to agency renewal. **Open until filled. Screening of applications will begin on January 23, 2013.**