

DV LEAP Managing Attorney Job Description

DV LEAP is seeking a Managing Attorney for its Custody and Abuse Project. The position is anticipated to be $\frac{3}{4}$ time, with benefits.

DV LEAP description: DV LEAP provides a stronger voice for justice by fighting to overturn unjust trial court outcomes, advancing legal protections for victims and their children through expert appellate advocacy, training lawyers, psychologists and judges on best practices, and spearheading domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. Despite numerous legislative and policy reforms designed to protect victims of domestic violence, many women and children are denied legal protections in court. Appellate review has been remarkably successful in correcting trial court errors, but appeals are extremely infrequent, due both to their expense and the need for scarce appellate expertise. Without systematic and sophisticated appellate litigation to hold them to the law, trial courts are too often failing to provide the safety and justice victims deserve and need. DV LEAP fills this vacuum in existing legal advocacy by providing *pro bono* appeals, along with extensive training and strategic assistance to lawyers and courts.

For additional information about DV LEAP's work, please go to www.dvleap.org

Custody and Abuse Project: Through this Project DV LEAP responds to the growing number of domestic violence victims around the country losing custody of their children or being required by courts to turn over their children for unsafe visitation with an abuser. Because these outcomes are widely fueled by the misuse of faulty psychological theories such as parental alienation syndrome, often proffered by neutral evaluators and other court appointees, the Project seeks to educate judges, evaluators and attorneys/advocates about the misuse of such theories and to improve accurate assessment of cases involving domestic violence. The Project will do this through (1) trainings for judges and court-appointed neutrals on the misuse of science in custody and abuse litigation; (2) trainings for lawyers and advocates on how to combat these problems in litigation; (3) written resources materials for all four professions as well as for *pro se* litigants and organizations working with *pro se* litigants; and (4) expert technical assistance and mentoring for lawyers, advocates, and *pro se* litigants in individual cases.

Position Description: The position will have lead responsibility for management of a two-year federal grant for this Project, working closely with DV LEAP's Executive Director. Responsibilities will include

- Organizing, mapping out and orchestrating delivery of trainings to diverse constituencies around the country, including
- Engaging in outreach to multiple institutions and people to set up trainings,
- Synthesizing and developing training materials,
- Supervising 4-5 consulting attorneys and psychologists acting as trainers and direct consultants; and
- Organizing meetings of all trainers to develop training approaches and curricula (and possibly facilitating reimbursements, travel arrangements, etc.), and as well as

- Following up with evaluations and feedback to trainers;
- Overseeing the development and dissemination of resource materials;
- Administering a limited technical assistance project for litigants in custody and abuse cases;
- Participating in individual technical assistance and trainings; and
- Ensuring that all grant activities and products are timely delivered.

The Managing Attorney will be located in DV LEAP's office in Washington, D.C.

The ideal candidate will have the following characteristics.

- At least 3-4 years' experience with domestic violence litigation and a strong commitment to ending violence against women;
- Demonstrated familiarity with custody and abuse issues and the protective parent movement;
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with and supervise others;
- Strong organizational, communication, and management skills;
- Experience in conducting trainings for judges, attorneys, mental health professionals and/or advocates and litigants;
- Experience with grant reporting;
- Familiarity with Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women grants; and
- Good sense of humor

This position is funded by a two-year grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, beginning in 2011. There is some chance that the grant will be renewed.

To Apply: Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume to Elizabeth@dvleap.org or by regular mail to:

Elizabeth Liu
Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment & Appeals Project
George Washington University Law School
2000 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052

Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. Position remains open until filled.