

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE: ATTORNEY EMERITUS

Name of Organization: Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc. (LSED)

Brief Description of Organization: LSED is a not-for-profit human service agency incorporated in 1978 to provide specialized, free civil legal services to elderly people in the community of Western New York. This year LSED closed 1,029 cases, providing assistance to 1,304 Western New Yorkers. As the number and percentage of seniors increase in all counties of Western New York, there will be an increased need for LSED's services.

Population Served: Elderly, disabled and low-income persons in Western New York. LSED contracts with the Departments of Senior Services in the following counties: Erie, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany, and the Seneca Nation of Indians. In Genesee and Niagara Counties, LSED contracts with the Department of Social Services to handle Medicare appeals for disabled Medicaid recipients of any age directly referred through the Departments of Social Services in those counties. LSED handles referrals from the additional counties of Niagara, Genesee, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Orleans, and Wyoming. LSED has a pooled supplemental needs trust with People Inc. and Key Bank to provide trustee services to disabled persons receiving public benefits.

Website: <http://www.lsed.org/>

Phone: 716-853-3087

Address: 237 Main Street, Suite 1015
Buffalo, NY 14202

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CONTACT

Name: Karen Nicolson

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 716-853-3087 ext. 205

Email: knicolson@lsed.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Elder Law: Pursuant to the Older Americans Act, LSED can provide defense counsel to individuals who are the subject of proceedings pursuant to Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law, which involve proceedings for appointment of a guardian for personal needs or property management. LSED also drafts advance directives for their clients, both powers of attorney and health care proxies. In 2007, through a grant with the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women, LSED joined forces with the New York State Unified Court System, Crisis Services, County Protective Services, Buffalo City Police and the Erie County Sheriffs to train local law enforcement on elder abuse.

Can Volunteers Work Off Site? Yes, but must come to the office on a regular basis.

Type of Work: Full Representation / Legal Research & Writing.

Location, Days and Hours of Volunteer Opportunity:
LSED's Buffalo office.

Area of Substantive Law: Elder Law.

Supervision: The volunteer gets assigned a supervising attorney.

Training: No formal training is provided. The supervising attorney assesses the volunteer's training needs on a case-by-case basis.

REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER

Time Commitment: Flexible.

Previous Experience in Substantive Law Required: No.

Specific/Previous Training Required: No.

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