



QLaw Foundation Sher Kung Summer Fellowship 2017: eQuality Project at CCYJ

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The QLaw Foundation Sher Kung Summer Fellow will be responsible for supporting the eQuality Project at the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ). The eQuality Project is a collaborative effort to ensure Washington's child welfare and juvenile justice systems better serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning/queer youth in their care, collect meaningful data on the needs, experiences and outcomes of LGBTQ youth, and divert LGBTQ youth from homelessness.

In partnership with over 200 stakeholders across Washington, eQuality has developed the Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care. The Protocol is a guide for professionals, volunteers, and caregivers in Washington's child welfare and juvenile justice systems to better serve LGBTQ youth in their care. In 2017, eQuality will begin a pilot implementation of the Protocol. For more information, please visit: <http://ccyj.org/initiatives/equality/>

POSITION SUMMARY

A critical component of implementing the Protocol is providing resources and support for judicial officers in juvenile court and attorneys representing youth. The primary task of the Fellow will be to develop new and refine existing resources for these judicial officers and attorneys. The Fellow will:

- Survey judicial officers and attorneys to identify the most common legal issues LGBTQ system-involved youth face;
- Conduct research on statutes, case law, regulations, and legal strategies surrounding those issues; and
- Use this focused research to develop a CLE curriculum, bench card, legal memos, and/or sample pleadings.

The Fellow may also support other pilot partners--including juvenile court administrators, probation and detention counselors, social workers, and court appointed special advocates—by assisting the eQuality Project Manager in consulting and providing technical assistance on emerging practices for better supporting LGBTQ youth, structural changes that benefit LGBTQ youth, and the collection and analyses of data. Note that the eQuality Project does not provide direct representation or services to youth.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Fellow will be responsible for the following:

- **Outreach.** Contact judicial officers sitting in juvenile court (or those who have recently exited), defense attorneys responsible for supervising juvenile and dependency units, and other defense attorneys who represent youth and families to interview and/or survey them about common issues impacting LGBTQ youth for which there is a lack of clarity in the law and/or guidance on legal strategies (e.g. conflicts between parental rights and a youth's right to self-determination and access to hormone treatment).
- **Legal research.** Conduct research in response to the specific legal questions developed, including a review of Washington statutes, regulations, case law, settlement agreements, and potentially a review of legal authority from other states.
- **Legal writing.** Develop useful tools for judicial officers and attorneys, such as a bench card, sample pleadings, legal memos, and/or a CLE/CJE curriculum.
- **Other.** Support pilot implementation of the Protocol by attending meetings with pilot partners and stakeholders, presenting on research, attending events and trainings, responding to requests for information, and/or participating in similar efforts as needed.



ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATIONS

The Fellowship is open to law students with:

- A commitment to improving the lives of LGBTQ youth.
- Strong legal research skills.
- Strong communication skills (verbal and written).
- A strong team orientation.
- Experience in and/or knowledge of child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems (Preferred).

LOCATION & TIMELINE

The Fellow will work at CCYJ's offices in Pioneer Square during normal business hours. The Fellow is expected to commit to working at least 10 weeks, full-time during summer 2017.

COMPENSATION

The Fellow will receive \$7,500 in compensation.

TO APPLY

Please send a cover letter, resume, list of three references, and a writing sample to Nicholas Oakley at noakley@ccyj.org with "QLaw Summer Fellowship" in the subject. **The deadline for applications is February 6, 2017.** We will also be accepting application materials and interviewing through the Seattle NW Public Service Career Fair (http://law.lclark.edu/student_groups/public_service_career_fairs/).

CCYJ is an equal opportunity workplace and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. CCYJ values a diverse workforce.