

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(9/4/24)

**The Position:** Senior Staff Attorney

**The Organization:**

For over 50 years, the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law has advocated for the civil rights, full inclusion, and equality of adults and children with mental disabilities. We were pivotal in expanding the civil rights movement to include fighting discrimination against and segregation of people with mental disabilities. Today, the Bazelon Center accomplishes its goals through a unique combination of litigation, public policy advocacy, coalition building, media outreach, and technical assistance.

The Bazelon Center seeks reform of public systems, focusing its advocacy on health and mental health care, education, employment, housing, and the criminal and immigration systems. Learn more at [www.bazelon.org](http://www.bazelon.org). We are committed to equity in the changes we seek and in everything we do.

**About the Position:**

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law seeks an experienced litigating attorney for a Senior Staff Attorney position to lead a number of system reform cases designed to expand community living opportunities, improve service systems and supports, promote equal access, and redefine standards of care for persons with mental health and developmental disabilities. The attorney will be expected to initiate, develop, and try complex civil rights cases, including both injunctive and damages actions.

The Senior Staff Attorney will report to the Bazelon Center's Legal Director and will assist with supervising and mentoring new attorneys. The attorney will also work with the legal staff, pro bono co-counsel, and other advocacy organizations to develop and litigate innovative, complex, high-impact cases, including under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the U.S. Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (Lois Curtis). The Senior Staff Attorney will also assist in Supreme Court and other appellate cases, advocate with the U.S. Department of Justice, HHS, and other federal agencies, and support the Center's policy initiatives, including through leading and working with coalitions. The Senior Staff Attorney will work with CEO and non-legal staff to assist with development, communications and organizational planning as needed.

1090 Vermont Ave NW Suite 220 Washington DC 20005 202 467 5730

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**Job Qualifications:**

- J.D. degree
- 8 years (minimum) of legal experience
- Admitted to practice in D.C. or eligible to be admitted to practice
- Excellent writing, analytical, and oral advocacy skills
- Substantial litigation experience, preferably in disability rights, racial justice, civil rights, poverty law, and/or health care
- Experience developing and managing complex litigation in federal court
- Understanding of the role of structural racism in public systems and its impact on people with disabilities who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- Ability to initiate, lead, or manage multiple projects and work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work autonomously and as a part of a team in a small organization
- Ability to work in coalition with other groups to advance complex legal and policy priorities

The ideal candidate will be a strategic and effective litigator, with experience and interest in developing and litigating complex cases, including ADA and Olmstead cases. Knowledge of mental health systems, the criminal legal system, and the Medicaid program are a plus. Applicants should have a strong commitment to the protection of individual rights of people with mental disabilities, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color and LGBTQIA+ people.

**Location:** The Bazelon Center's office is located in Washington, DC, and it conducts litigation across the country. The Senior Staff Attorney must reside in Washington, DC, Maryland, or Virginia. This is a hybrid position and the successful applicant will work both remotely and in person, as needed. Travel is sometimes required.

**Compensation:** \$130,000, commensurate with experience, plus a competitive benefits package.

**To Apply:** Please submit a cover letter, resume, and two legal writing samples that have not been substantially edited by another person. All application materials should be emailed to [jobs@bazelon.org](mailto:jobs@bazelon.org). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please.

**Target Start Date:** Negotiable

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The Bazelon Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Bazelon Center is committed to recruiting and maintaining a diverse team. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, disability, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, family responsibilities, or status as a veteran. Applicants who will increase the diversity of the Bazelon Center are especially encouraged to apply.

*The Bazelon Center is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. If you need assistance applying online, please email [jobs@bazelon.org](mailto:jobs@bazelon.org). If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.*