PRO BONO LAW ONTARIO

TRIAGE LAWYER:
PBLO at Children's Hospital (London)

TERM

This is a 2-year, 14 hour/week contract position. Reports to the Executive Director of Pro Bono Law Ontario, with supervision from the Triage Lawyer of PBLO at SickKids.

PBLO AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PBLO at Children's Hospital a new service located at the Children's Hospital at London's Health Sciences Centre. It helps low-income families resolve legal problems that may prevent them from focusing their full attention on caring for a sick child. The program aims to improve child health outcomes by addressing the causes and consequences of child illness through the provision of legal services.

The project incorporates legal advocacy and legal service delivery into clinical practice. It has two principal activities:

- **Direct legal service** delivery to low-income patients/families; and
- **Advocacy skills training** of healthcare providers to recognize life problems that may have a legal remedy in order to make patient referrals to the project.

PBLO at Children's Hospital is managed by Pro Bono Law Ontario in partnership with Children's Hospital, Lerners LLP, and Siskinds and funded by The Advocates' Society. PBLO is the second Ontario site of the acclaimed U.S.-based *Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC)* (www.mlpforchildren.org).

ABOUT PBLO

PBLO is a charity founded in 2001 with a mandate to improve access to justice by promoting and facilitating opportunities for lawyers to provide volunteer legal services to low-income Ontarians with civil, non-family, legal problems. PBLO is funded in part by The Law Foundation of Ontario and The Law Society of Upper Canada. It is one of the largest, privately funded free legal service providers in Canada. Last year PBLO served 13,758 clients.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) Devise and implement advocacy training program for hospital healthcare providers:
    a. work with project partners to determine scope of training and assess clinicians' learning needs;
    b. work with clinician champions to ensure optimal participation in program;

2) Establish/manage legal service delivery network:
    a. become familiar with pro bono and legal aid partners and determine legal practice areas to be made available for program;
    b. identify gaps and make recommendations to Steering Committee regarding the addition of legal practice areas;
    c. create database of community service providers for patient/family referral;
    d. work with PBLO to keep legal partners abreast of program developments and ensure optimal support to/commitment from lawyers.

3) Provide legal information and summary legal advice:
    a. consult with clinicians regarding patient/family issues, providing legal information when appropriate;
    b. consult with patients/families referred to program to determine appropriate course of action, including legal information or summary advice; referral to legal service network; or referral to community organization.

4) Coordinate legal referrals and conduct case management:
    a. where appropriate, refer patients/families to member of legal services network;
    b. track referrals and keep accurate case records according to established protocols.

5) Program Administration and Evaluation:
    a. meet as required with project partners;
    b. work with PBLO Program Director to prepare reports and promote program externally;
    c. support internal program promotion efforts;
    d. support program evaluation and research conducted PBLO.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Member in good standing with The Law Society of Upper Canada;

- A minimum of three years' active legal practice, preferably in a healthcare or community service setting;
- Demonstrated understanding of the social determinants of health as well as the legal issues associated with poverty;
- Demonstrated ability to work with culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse individuals;
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively using initiative, diplomacy, empathy and sound judgment; and
- Ability to communicate effectively – verbally and in writing – with a variety of stakeholders including the legal profession, various healthcare professions and the general public.
- A second language is considered an asset.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

TO APPLY

Email cover letter and resume with the subject line "**PBLO at Children's Hospital" to Yonit@pblo.org.**

Submission deadline: August 3, 2012, 5:00 p.m.