**SPECIAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE/CIVIL DIVISION**

**RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**PAYGRADE 8732 ($78,356 - $88,823)**

**PAY GRADE COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE**

**April 29, 2022 – May 20, 2022**

The Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General is seeking to fill the position of Health Care Advocate within the Public Protection Bureau of the Civil Division, which offers the opportunity to participate in setting the course for an expanded health care role for the Office of Attorney General. The Health Care Advocate is a position created by statute – R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-9.1 *et seq* – and the Advocate has responsibility for promoting public health by enforcing regulations and laws intended to protect patients, identifying areas for impact, and representing the Office of the Attorney General on committees and boards, among other functions.

**About the Office:** The Attorney General is the state’s top lawyer and law enforcement official, protecting and serving the people and interests of Rhode Island through a broad range of duties. Every day, the Office’s attorneys fight to ensure the public safety of the state’s communities, improve the economic security of its citizens, safeguard the state’s spectacular natural resources, and restore the public’s trust in government. Assistant and Special Assistant Attorneys General represent the people of Rhode Island in civil and criminal matters before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States. The Office is unique among attorneys general offices across the country. Out of fifty states, only two other offices share the same broad criminal mission. The Office’s attorneys prosecute complex and violent crimes but also functionally serve as one of the nation’s largest district attorney’s offices, prosecuting all felonies throughout the state.

**Civil Division:** The Civil Division leads affirmative and defensive litigation on behalf of the state, counsels the Attorney General and other government officials, and performs a range of regulatory duties. From identifying and pursuing landmark civil actions against businesses and individuals that have harmed Rhode Islanders to defending state laws, state agencies, state general officers, legislators, and employees, the Division and its attorneys are at the forefront of matters being litigated before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States.

**Public Protection Bureau:** The Public Protection Bureau has been recently created within the Civil Division of the Attorney General’s office and is comprised of four units – Healthcare, Consumer and Economic Justice, Environmental and Energy and Civil & Community Rights. Each of these units affirmatively develops legal work and initiatives by using the legal authority of the Office of Attorney General to advance and protect dignity, quality of life, and equity for all Rhode Islanders. The Public Protection Bureau and each of its units also engage with community members and advocates to identify needed change and with thought partners to understand drivers of poverty and inequities within existing systems. Litigation and other initiatives are chosen based on understanding where change is needed and the relationship of evident needs to larger drivers of inequity, and are prioritized by evaluating the potential for impact.

**Health Care Unit:** The mission of the Health Care Unit is to contribute to improving individual and community health, understanding that the health of Rhode Islanders requires access to the healthcare market as well as safe and healthy communities, homes, workplaces and schools, and working to make health care more accessible, affordable and of consistently high quality for Rhode Islanders by removing obstacles to care. Through the work of the Health Care Advocate and the Insurance Advocate, the Health Care Unit performs key regulatory oversight of significant hospital transactions and protects consumers against increasing health insurance rates and costs.

**Duties and Opportunities:** The position of Health Care Advocate has opened at a time when the Health Care Unit is expanding and redefining its work. The Health Care Advocate will be expected to collaborate with the Insurance Advocate and with other attorneys in the Public Protection Bureau in identifying and investigating potential cases, fulfilling regulatory responsibilities in health care, prioritizing Health Care Unit affirmative work, case development, pre-trial litigation, negotiation, written and oral argument, trial work, and appeals. This will include participation in the following:

* Identify, support and engage in litigation and other initiatives, including with attorneys in the Civil Division who are collaborating on Health Care Unit work.
* Ensure compliance with the RIAG’s responsiblities under the Hospital Conversions Act and other statutes, including ensuring access, affordability and quality are addressed while fulfiling those responsibilities relating to large, complex transactions;
* Engage with advocates and members of communities in Rhode Island to understand obstacles to health and health care;
* Identify policy thought-partners and resources to connect work being considered by the Health Care Unit with broader, policy-based, research into drivers that diminish access, affordability and quality in health care;
* Maintain communication with community members to identify need, understand impact and report about work, working with the Public Information Officer and the Director of Community Engagement.
* Maintain standards of quality legal work.
* Along with leadership in the RIAG, work with agency partners throughout State government.

Opportunities for Special Assistant Attorneys General in the Civil Division also include attending National Association of Attorney General trainings and conferences throughout the country, serving on state, local, federal, and/or non-profit boards, commissions, working groups, and/or task forces as a designee of the Attorney General, providing substantive expertise to legislative or policy initiatives, supervising student interns as part of the Office’s legal internship program.

**Eligibility:** The successful applicant should have at least five years of litigation or related experience, a law degree from an accredited law school and be an active member in good standing of the bar of any jurisdiction. If not a member of the Rhode Island Bar, the candidate must be eligible for admission to the Rhode Island bar and prepared to sit for the bar exam.

**Qualifications:** Strong candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law. Litigation experience is preferred. While knowledge of law pertaining to health care, investigations, and/or regulation of transactions is preferred, it is not necessary if a candidate has a demonstrated ability to learn new areas of law and apply that knowledge effectively and creatively. The position will require an ability to work in teams, an interest in creative legal thinking and a demonstrated ability to both envision and build on an organizational level. Candidates must have strong written skills and possess the capacity to function in a demanding environment.  Ability to work with other state government employees and communicate with members of the public is a must. The applicant should bring innovative thinking to the ways in which the Office of the Attorney General can consistently and increasingly meet the needs of Rhode Island residents.

The Attorney General’s Office is stronger, more credible, and more capable when its attorneys bring diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to their work. The Office encourages all qualified applicants from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and persons with disabilities to apply.

# If applying for position by submitting cover letter and resume via mail or email, no need to apply through online system.

**How to Apply:** Applicants should email or mail (1) a cover letter summarizing why you are interested and describing the skills and abilities you possess that will enable you to succeed in this position, (2) resume, (3) list of three references, (4) letter of good standing from each Bar of which you are a member, and (5) a writing sample to:

Aida Crosson

Director of Administration

Office of the Attorney General

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**Equal Opportunity Employer:** We are dedicated to forming a team that represents a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, or covered veteran status.

**Other Information:** Finalists will be subject to a background investigation including reference checks. All offers of employment are contingent upon successful completion of the background investigation.