



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 000-000-0001	POSITION: Psychiatrist (Part-time)	CLOSING DATE: 09/25/15	SALARY: \$33,092 for a 13 week appointment for one year with the potential to serve a four (4) year appointment term.
Commission on Mental Health (CMH)	LOCATION: 500 Indiana Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20001	Superior Court	

The Commission on Mental Health of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia seeks applications for a part-time psychiatrist to serve as a member of the Commission.

The Commission consists of the Chairperson, who is a Magistrate Judge and serves full time, and two doctor members. The doctor members are psychiatrists or qualified psychologists. They serve on a part-time, rotating basis, sitting for 13 consecutive weeks each year, two days a week. Prior to hearing evidence, the Commission doctors conduct a mental status examination of the person alleged to have a mental illness. Doctor members also participate fully in the hearing by asking questions of witnesses, voting on the decision and reviewing written reports prior to their submission to the Court. The Chairperson drafts Commission orders and reports which include findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations for treatment.

Pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-502, the Superior Court appoints a Chairperson and eight doctors to compose the Commission on Mental Health. When a petition for involuntary commitment of a mentally ill person is filed with the Superior Court, the Commission is responsible for performing examinations and conducting hearings to make recommendations to the Superior Court regarding commitment for those found to be mentally ill and, due to that mental illness, likely to injure themselves or others. The Commission receives all evidence and considers dispositional alternatives less restrictive than inpatient treatment.

The statute permits doctor members to practice their profession during their tenure of office. However, the statute prohibits doctor members from participating in the disposition of a case of a person for whom they have rendered professional service or advice. D.C. Code § 21-502(c).

Hearings are scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Most of the hearings are conducted at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital but may also be held at other locations in the District of Columbia. Doctors are expected to set aside the entire day for hearings during their 13 week service period.

On occasion, doctor members must also be available to testify in court for trials. If a respondent contests the Commission's recommendation for commitment, doctor members may be called to testify at trial and, in those cases, preparation may include re-examining patients, reviewing medical records and reading transcripts of hearings.

Due to the restrictions on their time and interruption of their practice during the thirteen weeks the doctors serve as Commission members, the Commission doctors earn approximately \$33,092 for the thirteen-week period.

Interested parties are asked to send a letter and a curriculum vitae to:
Magistrate Judge Mary Grace Rook
Chair, Commission on Mental Health
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Chambers 4450, Washington, DC 20001
Facsimile: (202) 393-6738

It is the policy and practice of the District of Columbia Courts to hire and promote employees based on qualifications and merit only, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disabilities, national origin, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, or place of residence or business.