

Prisoners' Rights Litigation Associate

7/15/09

Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services (MCLS) is the statewide provider of civil legal services to some 25,000 prisoners in Massachusetts. Our priority areas of litigation include conditions of confinement, access to health care, guard assault, and improper segregation.

Due to the Department of Correction's reluctance to settle, MCLS litigates more cases to trial than most civil legal service offices. We are a small office, but cases currently on our docket and likely heading to trial later this year or next include two wrongful death suits stemming from prisoner suicides in segregation; two county jail overcrowding cases; a challenge to the DOC's failure to subject classification policies to the state administrative procedure act; a medical malpractice case; a Hepatitis C case and a matter to reduce the collect telephone rates that prisoners' indigent families pay.

Our litigation director, James Pingeon, has over two decades of experience litigating in this field and will be a great source of training and support for an attorney placed here. Our Executive Director, Leslie Walker, is a leading voice on prison issues in Massachusetts and does extensive work on policy and with the media. To the extent it fits with the attorney's interests, they may work with Leslie in these areas as well. And, of course, there will be opportunities to visit prisoners and learn about prison life.

Please contact Leslie Walker, walker@mcls.net if you are interested in this placement.