



**Job Title:** Specialized Legal Advocate

**Reports to:** Manager of Legal Services and Advocacy

**Working Conditions:** The position is part-time (32 hours/week), \$33.83 per hour with incremental increases.

This position requires union membership.

Work is accomplished in person at an unpublished location in Vancouver, BC.

### **Organizational Overview**

Established in 1979, BWSS – Battered Women’s Support Services takes action to end gender-based violence through community-based interventions, support services, legal and systemic advocacy, education and training, violence prevention and research and policy.

The Justice Centre at BWSS is a community legal program providing legal services and advocacy for self-identifying women survivors of gender-based violence.

### **Job Highlight**

As Specialized Legal Advocate, you will provide legal advocacy and legal solutions for BIPOC women experiencing gender-based violence while also dealing with the intersections of immigration law and precarious immigration status.

### **Job Summary**

Through your work as Specialized Legal Advocate, you will provide information, support and advocacy for women dealing with immigration status at the intersection of gender-based violence and the Canadian legal system recognizing that legal issues routinely extend into other areas of the law, including child protection, criminal, and family law.

The Specialized Legal Advocate supports survivors and extended families experiencing gender-based violence, increasing their children's safety, having a voice in legal proceedings, and having access to legal solutions in their cases.

### **You’ll Be Responsible For**

- Providing legal information, a summary of case law, legal research, and general assistance to BIPOC women and extended family in building strategies for their legal case.
- Interviewing women and femmes, assessing/analyzing legal problems, assisting in resolving legal issues, assisting women and femmes prepare for court, preparing documents in consultation with the Justice Centre at BWSS team and the legal supervisor.
- Working closely with direct service, legal advocacy, counselling, and volunteer teams to maintain a matrix of support options for survivors accessing BWSS.
- Coordinating legal advocacy clinics and group sessions for survivors of violence.
- Delivering workshops and presentations to community groups.
- Providing public legal education, training and print materials for survivors and community advocates on immigration, child protection, criminal, and family law issues.
- Providing consultation and support to BWSS volunteers related to legal advocacy issues.
- Providing consultation and support to BWSS staff related to legal advocacy issues.
- Maintaining an excellent working knowledge of emergent legal-social issues related to violence against women and femmes and seeking solutions.
- Assisting with the administration of all record keeping and service delivery obligations of funding contract, in keeping with legal and contractual obligations undertaken by the Society. Such administrative duties will include preparing refunding proposals and regular program activity reports as required by BWSS and the funder.

## **Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in the law, or certificate or diploma in an appropriate area such as Paralegal Program or equivalent experience.
- Minimum four years of experience working with legal advocacy issues related to women who experience violence in relationships, preferably within child protection, criminal and/or family law.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience working with BIPOC communities.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience working with immigrant, refugee, and migrant communities.
- Solid understanding of the dynamics of violence against women and the intersectionality of oppression within a feminist framework.
- Demonstrated legal research, analysis, writing and advocacy skills.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with frontline service providers and with members of the community and social justice groups.
- Working within a harm reduction context, along with the ability to apply this understanding to your day-to-day work, helps guide you in your interactions with our funders and partners, your co-workers, and the women we support.
- Demonstrated a strong understanding of equity, intersectionality, anti-racism, decolonization, and anti-oppression.
- Demonstrated analysis, knowledge, and training in working with trauma survivors.
- Demonstrated cultural competency, including awareness of diverse marginalized communities in Metro Vancouver and the ability to work with women from various cultural communities.
- Demonstrated commitment to valuing diversity and contributing to an inclusive working environment.
- Respect for others' experiences, opinions, language, values, culture, and knowledge.
- Demonstrated organizational and outreach skills.
- Available for some evening and weekend hours.
- Your definition of a woman includes transgender, Two-Spirit, cisgender, intersex, transfeminine and femme individuals.
- You are sex worker positive.
- You understand the importance of communication, collaboration, and integrity forms the basis of your approach to interpersonal and professional relationships.

- Your approach includes an analysis and practice that creates opportunities for increased accessibility for survivors who have disabilities.

### **We Offer**

- An excellent employee benefits package.
- Support for training and development.
- Paid statutory holidays.
- Generous leave provisions (sick time, special leaves).

Preferential and limited hiring assist BWSS to achieve diverse and equitable representation in the workplace, and to recruit employees whose identities enrich the ways in which we accomplish our mission and serve the community; as a result, preference will be given to Indigenous women, Black women, racialized women, women who are disabled, femmes, transfeminine, and women from other equity seeking groups.

Please send a cover letter and resume in (PDF format only) detailing how you meet or exceed these qualifications to Battered Women's Support Services [endingviolence@bwss.org](mailto:endingviolence@bwss.org) Please include Specialized Legal Advocate in the subject line. This posting will remain open until filled.

**No phone calls or messages through social media, including LinkedIn, please.**

