Social Worker - Criminal Defense Practice

**Background:**
The Bronx Defenders – an innovative, progressive, holistic legal defense office located in the South Bronx – seeks energetic social workers with a commitment to social justice to fill openings within our Criminal Defense Practice.

The Bronx Defenders is a multi-service holistic defense organization dedicated to addressing the underlying causes and resulting consequences of involvement with the criminal justice and family court systems. The Bronx Defenders’ collaborative approach brings together interdisciplinary work groups combining criminal defense and civil lawyers, social workers, investigators, and parent and client advocates to address a client’s court case, as well as the host of issues that drive individuals into the system and prevent their exit. The Bronx Defenders has gained national and international attention for advancing this Holistic Defense model. To learn more, please visit our website at www.bronxdefenders.org.

**Responsibilities:**
Social workers are an integral part of interdisciplinary teams of advocates working collaboratively to provide high quality, holistic representation to indigent clients accused of crimes in Bronx County. Strategizing with lawyers and other advocates, social workers assist clients with those issues leading them to have contacts with the Criminal Justice system. Using an ecological framework, social workers are responsible for conducting assessments, making referrals to treatment programs and social service providers, as well as working with attorneys throughout the duration of the criminal case. Social workers at The Bronx Defenders must have strong organization skills, excellent time management, an ability to work collaboratively and a thorough knowledge of issues related to criminal justice involvement for poor and under-served populations.

**Additional Responsibilities:**
- Crisis Intervention
- Interviewing and assessing clients.
- Writing psychosocial assessments.
- Assisting with client-attorney communication.
- Providing supportive counseling to clients and their families.
- Connecting clients with a wide variety of social services and benefits.
- Advocating for and appearing on behalf of clients in Criminal Court.
- Writing mitigation memoranda for judges and prosecutors
- Visiting clients at NYC jail facilities, as well as treatment programs.
- Cultivating relationships with community programs and social service providers.
Qualifications:

- Masters in Social Work from an accredited Graduate School of Social Work
- A demonstrated interest working with clients with criminal justice system contacts who often have histories of trauma, issues related to substance abuse, as well as and are experiencing mental illness.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong written advocacy skills
- **Bilingual ability STRONGLY preferred** (Spanish/English)

Interested applicants should submit a RESUME, COVER LETTER, and REFERENCES electronically via email to jobs@bronxdefenders.org by the end of business on Friday, August 30, 2013 – please type “CDP Social Work” in the subject line. No faxes or phone calls please. Applicants will be notified regarding whether selected for an interview by the third week in September. **APPLICATIONS WITHOUT COVER LETTERS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BRONX DEFENDERS JUSTICE CAMPUS IN BRONX, NEW YORK.**

The Bronx Defenders is an equal opportunity employer: People of color; women; people with disabilities; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; and people with personal/familial experience with the criminal justice and family court system are welcome and encouraged to apply.