



Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association, Social Service Division

Mission: Established in 1965, the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association is a nonprofit law firm organized to provide the highest quality representation to eligible individuals accused of crimes in Salt Lake County. Our office of dedicated lawyers, social service professionals, mitigation specialists, legal assistants, paralegals, and investigators work hard to protect the rights of our clients.

Who We Serve: We provide legal defense for all indigent individual's in Salt Lake County. Indigence varies based on the severity of charges and defense needs.

Practicum Opportunities: The Social Services Division of LDA provides consultation to attorneys whenever mental health is a factor in either the charged crime or the forensic process. **Placement with us will offer unparalleled exposure to the intersection of mental health and criminal law**, including participation in psycho-legal processes, such as competency to stand trial and engagement with specialty courts (i.e. Drug Court, Mental Health Court, ORG Court, Vet Court).

You will have the opportunity to attend criminal trials, connect individuals with treatment programs, and work directly with jail inmates. There is a heavy micro and macro focus as you will work with both individuals and the community. Mezzo opportunities may entail facilitating groups with our community partners and/or coordinating inter-agency processes.

Clinically, you will develop sharp assessment/screening skills including differential diagnosis relating to both mental health and substance abuse, and you will engage in client management. You will view client behavior through a variety of theoretical lenses; however, you will not be performing psychotherapy.

Supervision: We are planning to accept two second-year MSW and two BSW students in the coming academic year. All supervision will be provided by Daniel Lancaster, LCSW or Erin Bigler, LCSW.

Practicum Schedule & Prerequisites:

- LDA is open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm; daily schedule will be worked out with your supervisor.
- You will need your own vehicle to travel to the jail and other SL County sites as needed.
- For jail access, you will need to complete a background check (\$30).
- No stipend yet. ☹
- A dark sense of humor and comfort with profanity is helpful.