



**PUBLIC JUSTICE**  
IMPACT. CHANGE.

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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**Please post and inform potential applicants.**

December 2018

### **DEBTORS' PRISON LITIGATION FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY OAKLAND, CA (preferred) or WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Public Justice** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to pursuing high impact lawsuits nationwide to combat social and economic injustice, protect the Earth's sustainability, and challenge predatory corporate conduct and government abuses. We seek to hire a two-year Debtors' Prison Project Fellow to begin as soon as possible, preferably in March 2019.

Public Justice specializes in high-impact, cutting-edge litigation. Our lawsuits fight for consumers' and victims' rights; the environment; a just, sustainable, and accountable animal agriculture industry; civil rights and civil liberties; workers' rights; government and corporate accountability; and the protection of the poor and powerless. Our Access to Justice Campaign works to keep the courthouse doors open for all—by battling federal preemption, unnecessary court secrecy, class action bans and abuses, unfair mandatory arbitration, and other efforts to deprive people of their day in court. For more information, please visit [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net).

Public Justice's Debtors' Prison Project is a strategic litigation project to combat the criminalization of poverty. As local governments shift the costs of the criminal justice system onto those who pass through their courts and outsource the collection of fines and other court debt to for-profit corporations, people are increasingly being arrested and jailed simply because they are poor. Meanwhile, the private companies that collect court debt have an incentive not merely to keep debtors in debt, but to have them arrested and jailed when they are unable to pay rather than ensuring they are given the protections to which they are entitled. Our goals are to obtain financial compensation for victims whose rights were violated; establish key protections against the exploitation and incarceration of indigent criminal defendants and debtors; and ultimately compel defendants to abandon predatory business models. Public Justice is currently counsel in a number of constitutional class actions against a private probation company, and we will be developing and litigating new class actions against both private companies and governmental entities and actors bringing both constitutional (e.g., due process, equal protection, Fourth and Sixth Amendments) and consumer protection claims. We believe that to deter unlawful conduct, we must force bad actors to financially compensate those whose rights they have violated. Accordingly, our focus will be on not only stopping illegal practices, but on winning damages for our clients. We will also seek to handle appeals of key legal issues with the potential to make good law in this area.

The Fellow will work collaboratively with Public Justice's staff attorneys, outside lawyers who support Public Justice's work, and other public interest groups to develop and implement new legal strategies,

litigate cases, and expand the Project's docket. The Fellow may also be called upon to meet with clients and members of affected communities, help develop materials to educate the public and the bar about the Project's work, speak publicly about the Project and our cases, and participate in a small amount of Public Justice litigation outside the Project. Experience in constitutional law, civil rights litigation, consumer law, and/or class actions is strongly preferred.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Superb analytical, legal research, legal writing, and speaking skills;
- Litigation experience (e.g., from internships, clinics, or clerkships);
- Ability to juggle multiple tasks at a time and work in a fast-paced environment;
- Self-motivation and proven ability to work independently;
- Ability to work well with others and diverse groups;
- Excellent attention to detail and commitment to follow-through;
- Positive attitude and can-do personality;
- Strong organizational skills; and
- Healthy sense of outrage and desire to change the world for the better.

The salary for the Fellowship is \$53,000 annually, plus excellent benefits. Public Justice is an equal opportunity employer with a non-smoking environment. Diversity valued. Applications invited without regard to race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or disability.

Your application should consist of two electronic files: (1) your cover letter, resume, transcript and references in a single .pdf file; and (2) a writing sample in another .pdf file, comprised of a legal brief or persuasive memo for which you were the primary author (please note the contributions of others). In your cover letter, please specify whether you are applying to work in the Oakland, CA or Washington, D.C. office. Candidates applying to work in Oakland are strongly preferred.

Please send your application to [lawfellow@publicjustice.net](mailto:lawfellow@publicjustice.net) no later than January 25, 2019.