



PUBLIC JUSTICE

IMPACT. CHANGE.

National Headquarters 1620 L Street NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20036
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Please post and inform potential applicants.

May 2020

ACCESS TO JUSTICE LITIGATION FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL 2021 WASHINGTON, D.C. (preferred) or OAKLAND, CA

Public Justice is a public interest legal advocacy organization dedicated to pursuing high impact lawsuits to combat social and economic injustice, protect the Earth's sustainability, and challenge predatory corporate conduct and government abuses. Our Access to Justice Project invites rising third-year law students and recent law graduates to apply for an opportunity to work with us as a legal Fellow. We seek to host a candidate to apply for one- or two-year public interest fellowships from funders such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, and/or Justice Catalyst to begin in the fall of 2021.

Public Justice Overview

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; and government and corporate accountability. Our Access to Justice Project is one of several substantive areas of our work, which also include our Debtors' Prison, Food, Environmental Enforcement, and Gender and Sexual Violence Projects.

Access to Justice Project Overview

Our Access to Justice Project uses litigation, advocacy, and organizing to help people harmed by corporate or governmental abuses by fighting against procedural and structural barriers that prevent them from seeking systemic change and vindicating their rights in transparent and publicly accountable forums. The Project leads the nation in victories for workers and consumers against efforts to force their claims into arbitration, preserves public access to court records and discovery materials, combats the use of federal preemption to eliminate judicial remedies, and works to preserve the class-action device as it is often the only route to force structural change.

The Fellowship

We are seeking to host a Fellow whose project would bring a racial justice lens to the fight against forced arbitration. Over the past 25 years, forced arbitration provisions have proliferated in consumer transactions and employment contracts, and have proven very effective at suppressing claims of injured parties. Legislative and advocacy efforts to combat the practice have primarily focused on documenting that claim suppression as well as the fact that consumers and employees have worse outcomes in arbitration than in court.

We are hoping the Fellow's litigation and advocacy project could take a different approach that focuses on the racial justice elements of forced arbitration. Subject to input from the Fellow, the project would aim to connect the dots between the injustices wrought upon low-wage workers of color, potentially including migrant farmworkers, and the enforcement of arbitration clauses, and then use coalition-building, litigation, and advocacy tools to bring a new perspective to the fight against forced arbitration.

The Fellow would work closely with Public Justice's staff attorneys with extensive experience litigating and advocating on arbitration issues, a network of lawyers who collaborate on Public Justice's work, other public interest groups, and our communications staff.

Qualifications

- J.D. degree (by Fall 2021).
- Excellent 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 and as part of a team.
- Sensitivity to the needs and concerns of, and ability to work well with, individuals and groups from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and orientations.
- Excellent attention to detail and commitment to follow-through.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Healthy sense of outrage and desire to change the world for the better.
- Experience in complex civil litigation is preferred.

We offer a mission-focused work environment and a teamwork approach. Salary will depend in part on the specific grant that funds the fellowship, but will be no less than \$53,000. We also provide excellent benefits, including two weeks of paid vacation, two weeks of sick leave, two personal days each year, all federal holidays, employer-paid health, dental, and vision insurance premiums, and a 401(k) plan. Employment is contingent upon the receipt of a fellowship from a funder such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, or Justice Catalyst.

Applications

Public Justice is an equal opportunity employer and values a diverse workplace. We strongly encourage applications from people with disabilities; people of color, including bilingual and bicultural individuals; LGBTQ individuals; people of all genders; veterans; and people of all ages. Public Justice is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual with a disability and need assistance applying online, please email lawfellow@publicjustice.net. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.

Your application should consist of two electronic files: (1) your cover letter, resume, law school 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 Washington, D.C. or Oakland, CA office. Candidates applying to work in D.C. are preferred.

Please send your application to lawfellow@publicjustice.net. Reference "2021 Access to Justice Project Fellowship Sponsorship" in the subject line. The application deadline is **June 15, 2020**. For more information on Public Justice, please visit our website at www.publicjustice.net.