



PUBLIC JUSTICE
IMPACT. CHANGE.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Please post and inform potential applicants.

May 2022

SPONSORSHIP FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE LITIGATION FELLOWSHIP STARTING FALL 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (preferred), OAKLAND, CA, or remote

Public Justice is a public interest legal advocacy organization that takes on the biggest systemic threats to justice of our time—abusive corporate power and predatory practices, the assault on civil rights and liberties, and the destruction of the earth’s sustainability. We connect high-impact litigation with strategic communications and the strength of our partnerships to fight these abusive and discriminatory systems and win social and economic justice. 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 2023.

Our strong preference is for this position to be based in our Washington D.C. office, but we will consider applications from especially qualified candidates seeking to work in our Oakland, CA, office, or remotely from other parts of the country. Because Public Justice handles litigation, education, and advocacy nationally, the position may entail some travel if it is safe to do so.

Access to Justice Project Overview

Our Access to Justice Project is one of several substantive areas of our work, which also include our Debtors’ Prison, Food, Environmental Enforcement, and Students’ Civil Rights Projects. The 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 narrow applications of Article III standing that keep individuals and organizations from pursuing justice in federal court, and fights 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 focus on structural and procedural barriers that impede access to justice in civil rights cases. Some examples of issues the fellow could address include:

- Combatting defenses that private companies use to evade liability when they perform traditional governmental functions, like criminal or immigration detention;
- Ensuring that disparate impact remains a viable method for proving discrimination;
- Seeking to preserve broad-based injunctive relief as a remedy in civil court; and
- Advocating for greater transparency around police disciplinary procedures, and combatting calls for secrecy and sealing, in litigation involving law enforcement.

Other project ideas that fit within the rubric of access to justice and civil rights are also strongly encouraged. Public Justice staff will work with the candidate to develop a project proposal that aligns with their passions and interests. The Fellow would work closely with Public Justice's staff attorneys, 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 2023).
- Admission to a state bar or pending admission by Fall 2023.
- 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.
- Willingness to travel, on occasion.

We offer a mission-focused work environment and a teamwork approach. The salary will be \$70,000/year. We also provide excellent benefits, including three weeks of paid vacation, two weeks of sick leave, two personal days each year, all federal and some local 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 which funds most or all of the fellowship salary. Public Justice requires those working in its offices to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Reasonable accommodations to this requirement, including remote work, based on disability or a sincerely held religious belief will be considered.

Applications

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. office, the Oakland, CA office, or remotely. Candidates applying to work in D.C. are preferred.

Please send your application to lawfellow@publicjustice.net. Reference “2023 Access to Justice Project Fellowship Sponsorship” in the subject line. The application deadline is **June 15, 2022**. For more information on Public Justice, please visit our website at www.publicjustice.net.

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 require reasonable accommodations during any part of the hiring process, please email lhughes@publicjustice.net.