

Job Announcement

Public Justice Director of Foundations Relations

(Washington, DC)

(May, 2022)

Public Justice has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a person who would enjoy and be successful at persuading grant-making foundations to support a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that combats consumer fraud, worker abuse, and other issues that unfairly harm people.

Applications will be accepted until this search is completed. To see if the search is still active, please visit www.SlesingerManagement.com.

The Organization

Public Justice is a non-profit 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 the destruction of the earth’s sustainability. It connect high-impact litigation with strategic communications and key partnerships to fight these abusive and discriminatory systems and win social and economic justice.

The organization accomplishes this through cutting-edge lawsuits and related public education, grassroots advocacy, and media relations campaigns that fight against numerous injustices including consumer fraud, employment discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, systemic racism, anti-LGBTQ discrimination, factory farming, climate change, and campaigns to block the public’s access to the courts.

A nonprofit founded in 1982, Public Justice has a staff of about 45 and a budget of \$8 million. Revenue comes primarily from membership dues and donations (mostly from plaintiff trial attorneys around the country who also work on these issues), grants from private foundations, and attorney fees from successful lawsuits. The organization is headquartered in Washington, DC; there is also an office in Oakland, California. (The director of foundation relations is welcome to work from the DC or Oakland office, but could also work remotely from another city anywhere in the United States.)

For more information about Public Justice, please go to www.PublicJustice.net. (Please do not confuse Public Justice (also called the Public Justice Foundation) with two other organizations with similar names: The Center for Public Justice, a Christian-based public policy organization with addresses in Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia; or the Public Justice Center in Baltimore.)

The Position and its Principal Responsibilities

Working closely with Public Justice’s executive director, director of development, and program staff, the director of foundation relations will be responsible for inviting private foundations throughout the United States to support Public Justice’s legal work, maintaining relationships with current and newly cultivated foundation supporters, and working closely with programmatic staff on relationship management.

This person will be responsible for all the key steps in successful fundraising from foundations, including identifying grantmakers whose interests overlap with Public Justice’s program priorities,

cultivating relationships with foundation staff, accompanying the executive director and other senior staff to meetings where grants will be discussed, and drafting periodic foundation-required programmatic and financial reports.

Desired Skills and Characteristics

The ideal director of foundation relations will have:

1. A successful track record in obtaining grants from foundations throughout the United States.
2. Strong writing skills. This person will play a lead role in putting together proposals to submit to foundations.
3. A significant understanding of grant budgeting to help program and finance staff identify all relevant costs that should be included in a proposal, including appropriate administrative support.
4. The poise to represent the organization before foundations – and also recognize when it's more appropriate for other staff – especially programs directors – to represent Public Justice before funders.
5. Experience working with the broader legal community – this is desirable, but not required.
6. A strong interest in and understanding of the varied causes that Public Justice takes on.
7. A willingness for a hands-on, do it yourself job, i.e., this person will have limited administrative support for prospect research, drafting of letters, maintaining a donor database, and other tasks that are part of foundation relations.
8. An ability to travel occasionally to meet with donors, often accompanying the executive director or other senior staff including attorneys focusing on projects that would appeal to particular foundations.

Compensation

The anticipated salary for the first year will be \$120,000 to \$130,000. Public Justice provides staff with a generous benefits package that includes health insurance, paid time off, a retirement plan, and other policies that recognize and support work-life balance.

(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.)

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 Larry Slesinger.

To Apply

Please email:

1. cover letter that explains why you are interested and qualified, and
2. resume

to: Larry Slesinger, Founder and CEO, Slesinger Management Services
Larry@SlesingerManagement.com
(please include “Public Justice” in subject line)

Questions? Contact Larry Slesinger by email or at 301-320-0680.