



PUBLIC JUSTICE
IMPACT. CHANGE.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Please post and inform potential applicants.

August 2022

ANTI-COURT SECRECY STAFF ATTORNEY WASHINGTON, D.C. 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.

Court secrecy is one of the systemic ways in which the powerful escape accountability. Historically, corporations and other powerful actors have been able to use court secrecy to prevent disclosure of information about dangerous products that place people at risk and can maim or kill (such as car tires that shred, pharmaceutical companies’ lies about opioids, birth control devices that endanger women’s lives). Eliminating most court secrecy provides the public with information it needs to avoid deadly harms, enables the public and regulators to hold wrongdoers accountable, and prevents powerful actors from inflicting the same harms again and again over a period of years or even decades while using secrecy to hide their patterns of abuse.

We seek to hire a staff attorney with litigation and advocacy experience who will be dedicated to combating secrecy in litigation in U.S. courts. The position’s title will be the Richard Zitrin Anti-Secrecy Attorney (“Zitrin Attorney”).

This position will focus on achieving the following goals through litigation, advocacy, and education:

- Eliminating protective orders and agreements between litigating parties that prevent the public from learning information obtained during the discovery and investigation process of litigation and prevent lawyers from sharing such information with other potential lawyers and litigants;
- Working to substantially narrow the circumstances under which sealing court documents is permitted, and unsealing documents in the court record that were improperly sealed;

- Prioritizing abusive secrecy that directly impacts the health and safety of individuals and the public, such as in litigation involving defective and dangerous products, toxic wastes, and direct environmental impact, as well as abuses of secrecy that disproportionately impact women and people of color.

This position is an exempt position and reports to the co-directors of the Access to Justice Project. 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 remotely from other parts of the country. Because Public Justice handles litigation, education, and advocacy nationally, the position will entail some travel when it is safe to do so.

The Zitrin Attorney will work closely with Public Justice's Access to Justice team. The attorney will also work collaboratively with Public Justice's other attorneys, outside lawyers who support Public Justice's work, and other public interest groups to further the goals of this position. The Zitrin Attorney will also engage in educating attorneys and advocates on how to use the legal system to prevent court secrecy.

Job Responsibilities:

- Lead litigation and advocacy efforts to prevent and overcome secrecy agreements and protective orders;
- Participate in the full range of litigation tasks involved in challenging court secrecy, including factual investigation, client representation, legal research and analysis, briefing, and oral arguments, including at the appellate level;
- Develop and engage in a broad range of legal advocacy through and outside the courts (including drafting and reviewing legislation; drafting rulemaking petitions, comments to agencies, letters, fact sheets and other materials; and testifying or presenting to legislative or rulemaking bodies) to improve state laws and court rules regarding litigation secrecy, or to advocate for better enforcement of existing laws and rules;
- Participate in developing and implementing a communications plan to educate lawmakers, trial lawyers, grassroots supporters, and others about the problematic nature of litigation secrecy;
- Build networks and collaborate with allies to fight abuses of court secrecy; and
- Manage and respond to intakes and inquiries involving court secrecy and maintain a robust docket of litigation challenging abusive court secrecy.

Qualifications:

- Law school graduate with relevant legal and advocacy experience;
- Admission to a State Bar;
- Preference given to applicants with at least three years of litigation experience (for the purposes of determining litigation experience, we include clerkships and fellowships);
- Experience with or interest in legislative advocacy a plus;
- A strong desire to reform secrecy and eliminate protective orders in the legal system, particularly abuses of secrecy that impact the health and safety of individuals and the public, as well as abuses of secrecy that disproportionately impact women and people of color;
- Excellent analytical, legal research, and writing skills;
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills;
- Self-motivation and proven ability to work as part of a team;

- Strong work ethic, initiative, and sound, yet creative judgment;
- Willingness to travel;
- Sensitivity to the needs and concerns of and the ability to work with individuals and groups from diverse cultures, backgrounds and orientations; and
- Ability and willingness to contribute to the creation of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work community that encourages collaboration.

We offer a mission-focused work environment, a teamwork and community-oriented approach, and a competitive compensation package. We recognize and support healthy work-life balance policies, including operating on a four-day work week all-year round. We also offer a generous benefits package, including three weeks of paid vacation, two weeks of sick leave, and two personal days each year, all federal and some local holidays, employer-paid health, dental, and vision insurance premiums, and a 401(k) plan. Our attorneys are paid on a salary scale based on years out of law school. The annual salary range for this position is possibly between \$76,000 and \$132,500. 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.

To Apply: Interested candidates should submit a:

- Cover letter that conveys why you are drawn to Public Justice's mission and the objectives of this position and how your particular experience makes you a strong candidate for this particular position;
- Resume;
- Law school transcript (official or unofficial);
- Contact information for three references; and
- Writing sample, preferably a legal brief or memorandum that is either unedited or only lightly edited by someone other than you; please include a cover sheet explaining the extent of editing by someone else.

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. The application deadline is **October 17, 2022**, at which point applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Please submit both files to staffattorney@publicjustice.net. For more information, 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.