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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

January 2024 Environmental Enforcement Staff Attorney

Who We Are

Public Justice, 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 liberties, and the destruction of the earth’s sustainability—is seeking to hire a **full-time staff attorney litigator with at least three years of relevant experience to develop and prosecute cases for our Environmental Enforcement Project.**

Public Justice connects high-impact litigation with strategic communications and the strength of our partnerships to fight abusive and discriminatory systems and win social and economic justice. In particular, we ensure access to the civil justice system, protect the civil rights of students, boldly lead efforts to reform the industrial agriculture system, fight to end modern-day debtors’ prisons, enforce the nation’s most important environmental laws, and much more.

The Environmental Enforcement Project is a national leader in using citizen suits to enforce federal statutes protecting environmental quality and human health. Our clients and partners include prominent and recognized advocates such as The Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, The Center for Biological Diversity, and others, as well as labor unions and community organizations.

What We Are Looking For

An experienced attorney who will litigate citizen suits, as well as develop and employ new, cutting-edge legal theories to compel polluters to clean up their pollution and internalize the costs they impose on the environment and the public—and, especially, to combat climate change.

The Environmental Enforcement Project Staff Attorney will primarily be responsible for developing and prosecuting precedent-setting and socially significant lawsuits against major pollution sources, including fossil fuel industry actors and animal industrial agriculture. The attorney should be prepared to develop new legal theories outside of environmental law and think holistically about how to reform industries and push our country towards a clean energy future.

Other duties will include networking with attorneys and other public interest groups; helping to develop and define strategic goals; and supporting fundraising and communication efforts for the organization. The right candidate will be a tenacious litigator dedicated to public interest litigation with environmental and tort law experience and a creative and strategic thinker able to work both independently and within teams. This is a unique opportunity to play a key role in advancing cutting-edge legal strategies that intersect with pressing social and political issues, including climate change, access to clean water, fracking, clean energy, and community mobilization around these issues.

The EEP Staff Attorney will play an integral part in shaping Public Justice's strategic plan to ensuring the Environmental Enforcement Project is well-positioned to take on important, innovative work that holds government leaders, corporations, and polluters accountable. This position will play a key role in developing those goals and strategies with the EEP Director.

The EEP Staff Attorney is an exempt position and will report to the Environmental Enforcement Project Director. 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 develop and bring precedent-setting cases to protect the environment.

Our strong preference is for this position to be based in our Washington D.C. or Oakland, CA offices, 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.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop new cases strategically; conduct factual investigations; develop legal theories; draft pleadings and briefs; and otherwise manage new and existing cases within state and federal courts and administrative agencies.
- Litigate cases from investigation to end, performing all aspects of litigation.
- Develop and maintain partnerships with clients, allies, and coalition partners in litigation and other advocacy.
- Collaborate and manage relationships with co-counsel, clients, and coalition partners.
- Supervise the work of Law Fellows and Law Clerks within the organization. Play an integral role in developing and mentoring less experienced attorneys.
- Integrate communications and legislative advocacy into litigation and other legal strategies, working effectively with other departments at Public Justice, including Communications and Development. Utilize traditional and social media networks to publicize our work, develop speaking engagements to educate the public about Public Justice's cases and the issues they represent, and assist with donor and foundation relations and communications.

Experience, Skills, & Qualifications

- Law degree and at least three years of litigation experience.
- Experience in environmental law, tort law, and litigating under the Administrative Procedures Act; conversant with scientific and technical data.
- Excellent litigation skills, including legal research, writing, analytical, and oral advocacy skills, and ability to manage a litigation docket effectively.
- Strong skills in communicating litigation and advocacy goals and messages to the media and public.
- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with client partners and in leading a team.
- Strong and demonstrated initiative, good judgment, creativity, and work ethic.
- Ability and willingness to travel as needed for case work, court appearances, and presentations.
- Commitment to serving the public interest, and a passion for the role of Public Justice and its mission.
- Sensitivity to the needs and concerns of and the ability to work with individuals and groups from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and orientations.
- Contributes to the creation of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work community that encourages collaboration.

Salary

We offer a mission-focused work environment, a teamwork and community-oriented approach, and a competitive compensation package. **Our attorneys are paid on a salary scale based on years out of law school. The starting annual salary for a staff attorney with three years out of law school is \$95,000.**

Benefits

- Four-day workweek
- Flexible schedule
- Three weeks of paid vacation
- Two weeks of sick leave
- Two personal days each year
- All federal holidays and some local holidays off *(Public Justice acknowledges there are various religious and cultural holidays that are important to our team. We encourage team members to take any*

days necessary for observing holidays and celebrations that are central to their faith tradition or communities.)

- Employer-sponsored health plan
- 401 (k) plan

How to Apply

Your application should consist of **two** electronic files:

- (1) Cover letter that conveys why you are drawn to Public Justice’s mission and the objectives of this position and how your experience fits with those objectives.
- (1) Resume.
- (1) Law school transcript (official or unofficial).
- (1) Contact information for three references.
- Separate PDF file of (2) Writing samples, preferably a legal brief or memorandum unedited or only lightly edited by another, including a cover sheet explaining the extent of editing by someone else.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials by **February 16, 2024**, at which point applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Please submit both files to staffattorney@publicjustice.net with the subject line: “EEP Staff Attorney.” For more information, please visit our website at www.publicjustice.net.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access

We recognize that creating a truly equitable, inclusive, and diverse organization is an ongoing journey, and we’re proud and excited to share our journey with you. Please visit the link below to read our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy.

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access](#)

Public Justice is an equal-opportunity employer and values a diverse workplace. We are committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equitable employment opportunities are available to all applicants. We strongly encourage applications from people with disabilities, people of color, including bilingual and bicultural individuals, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, previously incarcerated 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 mmediavilla@publicjustice.net.

A note to women and BIPOC Candidates:

Studies have shown that women, nonbinary people, and People of Color are less likely to apply for jobs unless they believe they meet every single one of the qualifications as described in a job description, despite the reality that applicants rarely ever meet 100% of the qualifications. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive organization and are most interested in finding

the best candidate for the role. That candidate may come from a background less traditional to our field of work, and that's okay!

We strongly encourage you to apply, even if you don't believe you meet every one of the qualifications described.