

Position Description:

Anti-Court Secrecy Staff Attorney

Public Justice

June 2021

Announcement

Public Justice, a national public interest organization, seeks to hire a staff attorney with litigation and advocacy experience who will be dedicated to combating secrecy in litigation in U.S. courts and attendant agreements to secrecy that occur in matters in controversy that have not reached the courts.

About Public Justice

[Public Justice](#) is a non-profit legal advocacy organization that pursues high impact lawsuits to combat social and economic injustice, protect the Earth's sustainability, and challenge predatory corporate conduct and government abuses.

Public Justice staff attorneys fight against injustices such as corporations cheating consumers and using the courts to find ways to get away with it, reckless polluters, unscrupulous payday lenders, unjust employers, punitive credit card companies, inhumane government detention centers, dangerous food producers, and more. The Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable membership organization, supports the work of Public Justice, P.C.

The Role

The position's title will be the Richard Zitrin Anti-Secrecy Attorney ("Zitrin Attorney"). This position is open as of July 1, 2021, is an exempt position, and reports to a Senior Attorney on our Access to Justice team. Our strong preference is for this position to be based in our Washington D.C. office.

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

- Elimination of agreements between parties that make secret information obtained during the discovery and investigation process of litigation; unsealing documents on the court record that were improperly sealed and working to narrow the requirements for sealing court documents; •
- Prioritization of abuses of secrecy that directly impact the health and safety of individuals and the public, such as in litigation involving defective and dangerous products, toxic wastes, and direct environmental impact; and •
- Elimination of court protective orders in all but the narrowest circumstances with particular attention to multi-district and multi-case judicial protective orders that may prevent the disclosure of information in a multitude of cases.

Because Public Justice handles litigation, education, and advocacy nationally, the position will likely entail some travel once travel is safe again. 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, taking and defending discovery, briefing, and oral arguments;
- 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, participating in meetings and events) to prevent secrecy agreements and orders;
- 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;
- Manage and respond to intakes and inquiries involving court secrecy and maintain a robust docket of litigation challenging abuses of court secrecy.

Qualifications:

- Law school graduate with relevant legal and advocacy experience.
- Admission to a State Bar.
- Preference given to applicants with at least two years of litigation experience. For the purposes of determining litigation experience, we will include clerkships and fellowships.
- Experience with legislative advocacy a plus.
- A strong desire to reform secrecy and eliminate protective orders in the legal system particularly as it impacts the health and safety of individuals and the public.
- 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.
- Contributes to the creation of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work community that encourages collaboration.

Benefits and Compensation:

We offer a mission-focused work environment, a teamwork and community-oriented approach. 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 holidays, employer-paid health, dental and vision insurance premiums, and a 401(k) plan.

The annual salary range for this position is between \$60,000 to \$79,000, depending on experience.

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.
- Resume
- Law school transcript (official or unofficial)
- Contact information for three references.
- 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.

Note: 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.

Interested, qualified attorneys should submit all application materials to the following search consultants:

Steve John
Founder & Principal
Steven John & Associates, LLC
steve@sjanda.com
(415) 505-6685

Jason Snyder
Managing Director
Steven John & Associates, LLC
jason@sjanda.com
(415) 505-6687

All inquiries and/or application materials sent directly to Public Justice will be redirected to Steven John & Associates, LLC for review, which may cause significant delay in evaluation and response.

On behalf of Public Justice, we thank you for your interest in the Zitrin Attorney opportunity!

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 vni@publicjustice.net. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.

National Headquarters 1620 L Street NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20036
West Coast Office 475 14th Street, Suite 610, Oakland, CA 94612