

January 2023



**FOOD PROJECT STAFF ATTORNEY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Public Justice, 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, is seeking to hire a litigator for a Staff Attorney position in our Food Project. The Food Project at Public Justice works to dismantle the current corporate-controlled exploitative food system and support a movement to achieve our vision of a food system that is both regenerative and equitable. The position is based in our Washington D.C. office and is open immediately. Our 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.

The Food Project at Public Justice takes a multifaceted approach to build power and achieve a just, humane, and sustainable animal agriculture system. In our lawsuits, we partner with and represent farmers, rural communities, consumers, and workers who share our vision. In our advocacy, we amplify their voices and spread awareness of the systemic inequities that have allowed this corporate takeover of our food system and show policymakers and the public how they can support a return to farming focused on sustaining communities rather than extracting profit.

The Staff Attorney will report to the Food Project Litigation Director and work closely with Food Project staff and 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 Project’s goals. The Staff Attorney will also take a leadership role in building out the Food Project Attorney Network, which seeks to grow the number of attorneys fighting for a more just food system.

Responsibilities:

- Work closely with Food Project staff, allies, and clients to build and support the docket, including investigating, developing, and prosecuting cases. In working with the Food Project team on developing and maintaining their dockets the Staff Attorney will participate in the full range of tasks involved in complex litigation, including factual investigation, legal research and analysis, discovery, briefing, and oral advocacy.
- Develop and engage in legal advocacy outside of court based on the ways in which the litigation intersects with policymaking and base building, including drafting and reviewing legislation; drafting rulemaking petitions, comments to agencies, letters, fact sheets and other materials; and participating in coalition meetings and events.

- Support the Organizing Director and Litigation Director in the implementation of integrated advocacy initiatives, campaigns, and strategies.
- Actively engage in outreach and participate in coalitions and collaborative networks to build relationships and support.
- Help manage our case intake process and provide potential clients with resources.
- Help build and train attorneys in the Food Project Network, a network of private attorneys who are challenging corporate misconduct in industrial animal agriculture, including developing materials designed to educate members of the public and the bar.
- Other advocacy work to further the priorities of the Food Project at Public Justice.

Qualifications:

- Law school graduate with at least two to seven years of relevant legal experience preferred.
- 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.
- Admission to a State Bar.
- 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 extensively, meaning as much as once to twice a month more than half of the year.
- Sensitivity to the needs and concerns of and the ability to work with individuals and groups from diverse cultures, backgrounds and orientations.
- A strong desire to build a movement to achieve a more just food system.
- Contributes 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. Our attorneys are paid on a salary scale based on years out of law school. The salary for this position will be between \$76,000-\$94,500, depending on experience. 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 what makes you a good fit for the Food Project.
- 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.

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. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials by **March 1, 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, or to learn more about the Food Project, visit <https://food.publicjustice.net/>.

Public Justice EEO Statement

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.

Background Check Policy

As an organization dedicated to protecting the rights of workers, Public Justice takes our duty to respect and honor the dignity of every employee seriously and balances this commitment with our responsibility to ensure a safe working environment for our team. As part of both these commitments, we will ask potential employees who have received a conditional offer of employment to consent to a narrowly tailored background check process. This process is limited only to specific inquiries regarding convictions related to financial fraud and violent crimes. We do not request, review or consider any information related to other matters, including consumer credit checks, non-violent drug offenses, sex work, or other past convictions with no history of violence, nor do we condone or participate in “dead naming” transgender applicants as part of this process. Public Justice strongly supports equal employment opportunities for all qualified applicants regardless of any past history unrelated to job performance or skills.

Questions about our background check process should be addressed to Leroy Hughes, Vice President of Operations, by email at lhughes@publicjustice.net.