

Staff Attorney – Freedom of Information/Transparency

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP) is currently seeking a staff attorney with at least three years of litigation experience to join its growing legal team in Washington, D.C. The staff attorney will play a central role in litigation, amicus, education, and advocacy matters involving access to public records under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and state public records laws, as well as in matters involving access to open meetings and other transparency issues. The position will require an attorney with excellent legal writing and oral communication skills, as well as experience litigating under the federal Freedom of Information Act and/or state public records laws. Experience representing journalists and news organizations in public records and other transparency matters is preferred.

This full-time position will be based in Washington, D.C. and will report to the Legal Director. While an internal candidate has been identified for this position, qualified external applicants will be considered. The deadline to apply is June 11, 2021.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- Representing the Reporters Committee, journalists, and news organizations in litigation and other matters involving access to public records under FOIA and state public records laws, and in matters involving access to open meetings and other transparency issues; this includes, inter alia: participating in intake/case selection and other strategy decisions; drafting public records requests, administrative appeals, pleadings, briefs, and other filings in trial and appellate courts; and appearing on behalf of the Reporters Committee and clients in state and federal court;
- Drafting amicus briefs in cases presenting important issues affecting journalists' access to government information under FOIA, state public records laws, and open meetings laws;
- Educating journalists about FOIA, state public records laws, and open meetings laws, and how to utilize such laws effectively for newsgathering and reporting;
- Working to keep Reporters Committee's guides and other free resources about FOIA, state public records laws, and open meetings laws up-to-date, and developing new resources;
- Responding to hotline inquiries from journalists;
- Working collaboratively with other RCFP attorneys, including Local Legal Initiative attorneys, and external partners on litigation, policy, and advocacy issues relating to FOIA, state public records laws, and open meetings laws;

Qualifications

Required Qualifications:

- J.D. from accredited law school; must be admitted to practice law in at least one U.S. jurisdiction and admitted to practice or eligible for admission to practice in the District of Columbia at the start of employment;
- At least 3 years of litigation experience, with meaningful experience in FOIA and/or state public records litigation;
- Excellent legal writing and oral communication skills;
- Good judgment and the highest level of professional ethics and integrity.