

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Staff Attorney Position

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press is currently seeking an attorney with at least three years of litigation experience to join its legal team based in Washington, D.C. This newly created staff attorney position represents an opportunity to join a small team of dedicated lawyers who represent the Reporters Committee, news organizations, and individual journalists in impact and defense litigation involving access to judicial records/proceedings, freedom of information, libel, and other newsgathering and First Amendment matters. The staff attorney will play a key role in advising independent and freelance journalists, including documentary filmmakers, on legal concerns in connection with the Reporters Committee's pre-publication partnerships with organizations including the Fund for Investigative Journalism and the International Documentary Association.

The position will report to the Legal Director.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- Litigating impact cases involving access to court records/proceedings and issues arising under state and federal freedom of information laws, including the drafting of pleadings, motions and briefs; arguing motions, and negotiating with opposing counsel;
- Providing counsel to journalists, including documentary filmmakers, on legal issues related to newsgathering, access to information, libel, and privacy in connection with the Reporters Committee's pre-publication partnerships;
- Pre-publication review of articles, documentary films, and other content in connection with the Reporters Committee's pre-publication partnerships;
- Drafting amicus briefs on behalf of media coalitions in state and federal appeals presenting important freedom of information and First Amendment issues;
- Managing local and outside counsel relationships in amicus and litigation matters;
- Conducting trainings for journalists and news organizations on media law topics.

Desired Qualifications:

- At least three years of litigation experience with a law firm, nonprofit organization, or legal department of a news media company. Prior experience handling freedom of information, access to judicial records/proceedings, libel/defamation, and other news media matters is strongly preferred. Prior experience providing pre-publication review/advice is strongly preferred. Must be a member of the D.C. Bar or eligible to be admitted to the D.C. Bar by motion.
- Must be self-directed and have the ability to handle independently all aspects of litigation, including drafting papers, formulating strategy, and negotiating with opposing parties;
- Must have outstanding legal research skills and excellent written and oral communication skills;

- Must have strong leadership skills and be able to successfully supervise Reporters Committee legal fellows and legal interns;
- Must have good judgment and the highest level of professional integrity;

Our generous benefit package should also be considered. For this full-time position, RCFP offers:

- A competitive annual base salary between \$83,000 and \$93,000, based on level of experience, with 3 weeks paid time off in addition to most federal holidays.
- A retirement savings plan, including a 5% employer match from date of hire.
- Comprehensive employer paid insurance coverage, including medical, dental, and vision, life and disability.
- Ability to use pre-tax dollars for dependent care and commuting expenses.
- A collaborative and inclusive work environment.

The Reporters Committee is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce, and we strongly encourage women, veterans, people with disabilities, people of color and gender nonconforming candidates to apply.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, contact information for three references, and a legal writing sample to Reporters Committee's Legal Director Katie Townsend via email at ktownsend@rcfp.org.