

Knight/State & Local Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Position

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press is currently seeking an attorney with at least seven years of litigation experience to lead a new program to provide direct legal services to support state and local journalism across the United States. Supported by a generous grant from the John L. and James S. Knight Foundation, this newly created senior staff attorney position represents a one-of-a-kind opportunity to develop and oversee a new, mission-critical program at the Reporters Committee that will provide on-the-ground litigation and other legal support to journalists and news organizations in select cities around the country. The staff attorney will be responsible for successfully launching and overseeing the program, including directly supervising the work of what will be a growing team of attorneys located in different jurisdictions. The position will require a staff attorney with significant experience representing journalists and news organizations in litigation involving access to judicial records/proceedings, freedom of information, libel, and other newsgathering and First Amendment matters, as well as management/supervisory experience.

The position will be based in Washington, D.C., but will require frequent travel within the United States. The position will report to the Legal Director.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- Developing and successfully implementing a new program within the Reporters Committee to provide direct, on-the-ground legal services to support state and local journalism in select jurisdictions around the country, including managing jurisdiction-specific practice issues, identifying appropriate litigation and other projects to advance the goals of the program, setting performance benchmarks, and supervising the legal work of a growing number of attorneys located outside of Washington, D.C.;
- Working with Reporters Committee attorneys on-the-ground in jurisdictions around the country to litigate cases involving access to court records/proceedings and issues arising under state freedom of information laws, including the drafting of pleadings, motions and briefs; arguing motions, and negotiating with opposing counsel;
- Identifying and cultivating relationships with law firms and partner organizations to advance the goals of the program;
- Successfully integrating the program with the Reporters Committee's existing legal portfolio

Desired Qualifications:

- At least seven years of litigation experience with a law firm, nonprofit organization, or legal department of a news media company. Must be a member of the D.C. Bar or eligible to be admitted to the D.C. Bar by motion.

- Prior experience handling freedom of information, access to judicial records/proceedings, libel/defamation, and other news media matters is required. Prior experience providing pre-publication review/advice is strongly preferred.
- Must have significant, demonstrated experience managing litigation and supervising less-experienced attorneys;
- Must have excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Must have strong leadership skills and be able to simultaneously successfully develop and lead an innovative legal program and supervise the legal work of junior attorneys;
- 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 \$110,000 and \$125,000, based on 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.