

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPREME COURT ASSISTANCE PROJECT FELLOWSHIP

(1-year position, starting August 2025)

Founded in 1972, Public Citizen Litigation Group is the litigating arm of the non-profit advocacy organization Public Citizen. Litigation Group attorneys specialize in cases involving health and safety regulation, consumer rights, access to the courts, class action standards, open government, and the First Amendment. The Litigation Group litigates cases at all levels of the judicial system and has argued 66 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

To augment its Supreme Court practice, the Litigation Group operates the Alan Morrison Supreme Court Assistance Project, named after the Group's founder. The Project focuses on helping small-firm practitioners, lawyers for non-profit organizations, and other lawyers with little experience in Supreme Court litigation. The Project assists lawyers before review is granted, either by helping with a petition for certiorari or a brief in opposition. After review is granted, we work with lawyers to prepare their briefs and oral argument. Most of the cases on which we work are civil rather than criminal. Most of our work at the petition stage involves assisting the party who won below in preparing an opposition to the petition for certiorari, to keep the case out of the Court and thereby preserve a victory.

Job Description

The fellow has the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of Supreme Court litigation—from initial strategizing to brief writing to moot courts. The fellow reviews all paid cert. petitions and, working under the direct supervision of the Litigation Group director, makes an initial judgment about whether the case is of interest to the Project. The fellow prepares a research memo on cases of interest and recommends whether to offer assistance. When an offer of assistance is accepted, a Litigation Group attorney assumes principal responsibility for the case within the office, although the fellow often remains substantially involved. In the last Supreme Court term, we assisted in more than twenty cases at the petition stage and handled one case as lead counsel at the merits stage.

The fellow is also responsible for coordinating moot courts for advocates appearing before the Court—generally, approximately twenty moot courts each term. In addition, the fellow prepares an email on pending petitions of public interest to update subscribers before each Supreme Court conference.

In addition to work on the Project, the fellow has an opportunity to work on briefs in other Litigation Group cases, including cases in the Supreme Court and lower courts.

Qualifications

Applicants must have a JD or expected law school graduation date no later than June 2025, a solid academic background, and excellent writing and analytical skills. Some practical litigation experience in law school or elsewhere is preferred, but not required. A strong preference will be given to those who have a demonstrated commitment to public interest work.

Salary

The annual salary, set by collective bargaining agreement, is approximately \$79,000. Benefits include fully paid health and dental insurance and three weeks' paid vacation.

Application Instructions

Applicants should send a cover letter, a resume, a list of references, a law school transcript, and a writing sample to litapplicant@citizen.org. The writing sample should be legal in nature (brief, memorandum, or research paper) and should be the applicant's own work, not work heavily edited by someone else. *Please send the complete document, not an excerpt.*

Applicants should consult the Project's website (<https://www.citizen.org/supreme-court-assistance-project/>), and Litigation Group website (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation>) for general information on the work of the Litigation Group. Interviews will be conducted by video conference beginning in September. The position is open until filled.

August 2024