

Student Defense

Counsel Position Description

Summary

The National Student Legal Defense Network (“Student Defense”) is a non-profit organization focusing on consumer protection in higher education. Through litigation and advocacy, we protect students from predatory lending and other abusive practices by for-profit colleges and other institutions. Since we launched nearly five years ago, Student Defense has earned a track record of success in trial and appellate courts, winning tangible relief for student loan borrowers. Simultaneously, we developed and promoted a policy agenda that has led to substantial debt relief for hundreds of thousands of student loan borrowers and seeks to promote equity and consumer protections across higher education.

Our goal is to create structural change by selecting cases and causes such as curbing fraud and misrepresentations to students, combating reverse redlining practices that target students of color, and obtaining relief for defrauded student loan borrowers. We are looking for a counsel with the ability and passion to litigate cases that will advance these interests to join our team. To apply: please send an email with a cover letter and resume to careers@defendstudents.org.

Job Duties and Responsibilities

Student Defense is seeking an attorney to serve as Counsel, with a specific focus on litigation and advocacy related to predatory student lending and other abusive practices harming students.

Responsibilities include:

- Serving as a counsel in class-action and impact litigation on behalf of student loan borrowers against for-profit colleges and predatory companies;
- Working on all aspects of litigation, including case development, discovery, depositions, motion practice, trials and appeals;
- Conducting investigations, using FOIA and other tools, into the effectiveness of government oversight of predatory colleges;
- Maintaining close working relationships with coalition partners;
- Coordinating federal and state advocacy work on student lending issues;
- Representing Student Defense at public events and coalition meetings, as needed;
- Representing clients in litigation involving the Administrative Procedure Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, FOIA, and other areas of consumer law.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have:

- A law degree and admission to a state bar, with ability to waive into the D.C. Bar, if not already admitted;
- 1-8 years of legal experience;
- Demonstrated ability to work on all aspects of litigation and legal research;
- Strong research, analytical, oral and written communication skills;
- Sound judgment and creativity in developing legal theories;
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently in a small, start-up environment;
- A commitment to Student Defense's mission, purpose, and values;
- Additional desired qualifications: Knowledge of and experience with consumer protection law, Administrative Procedure Act claims, and student lending issues.

Salary is highly competitive and commensurate with experience. Student Defense offers excellent benefits, including health-care benefits, and a pre-tax retirement match.

Location: Washington, D.C. area is preferred; open to remote work.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Student Defense strongly encourages candidates of color and candidates from underrepresented communities to apply. We are an Equal Opportunity employer and do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other status protected under law.