

National Student Legal Defense Network

Director of External Affairs and Communications

Organization Description

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 work to advance students' rights to educational opportunity and ensure that higher education provides a launching point for economic mobility. We seek to protect students from predatory lending and other abusive practices by for-profit and other institutions of higher education. Student Defense has successfully brought challenges to the Trump Administration's attempts to rollback key regulatory protections for student loan borrowers and helped clients secure discharges of their federal student loan debt.

We are seeking a highly qualified individual to manage Student Defense's communications external and political outreach and policy development activities. Our office is located in downtown Washington, D.C. However, given COVID-19 considerations at the time of this posting, our team is working remotely and thus, this selected individual may begin this role remotely.

Job Duties and Responsibilities

The Director of External Affairs will be responsible for:

- Developing and executing a strategic communications plan;
- Cultivating relationships with media;
- Managing and developing social media and digital strategy for Student Defense;
- Writing press releases, OpEds, blog posts and newsletters;
- Conducting research and drafting reports on higher education and consumer issues;
- Directing Student Defense work with partner organizations;
- Representing Student Defense at public events;
- Talking to reporters on the record and conducting and tv and radio interviews;

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least 8 years of communications and/or public affairs experience in government, campaigns, policy advocacy or related fields.
- Strong administrative, research, writing, and communication skills and ability to execute a high-level of attention to detail in a fast-paced work environment;
- Sound judgement and discretion in handling and communicating confidential information.
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently with little supervision in a small, start-up environment; *and*
- A commitment to Student Defense's mission, purpose, and values.

Although experience and knowledge of consumer protection issues in higher education is not required, Student Defense values applicants with knowledge of and experience with such issues.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is highly competitive and commensurate with experience.

Student Defense offers excellent benefits, including healthcare, a pre-tax retirement match, and a transportation stipend (once remote work ends), among others.

To Apply

Please e-mail a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to careers@defendstudents.org as soon as possible. Student Defense will review applications and make decisions on a rolling basis.

Please address your cover letter to the Hiring Committee and include Director of External Affairs and Communications in the email subject line. Candidates should highlight any personal or professional experience that demonstrates their connection to the populations that Student Defense serves.

Student Defense is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability or veteran status, or other non-work-related factors.