

## **National Student Legal Defense Network**

### *Legal Fellowship in Higher Education Litigation & Advocacy*

#### **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 to hire a recent law school graduate (0-2 years of experience) for a one-year fellowship, starting in the spring, summer, or fall of 2020. Our office is located in downtown Washington, D.C.

#### **Job Duties and Responsibilities**

The legal fellow will be responsible for:

- Serving as counsel in litigation challenging federal regulations and administrative actions by federal agencies;
- Working on all aspects of litigation, either alone or alongside co-counsel, including fact investigation, discovery requests, motions practice, trials, and appeals;
- Contributing to state-level and local advocacy work and coordinating efforts among coalition partners regarding policy efforts;
- Representing clients in litigation involving the Administrative Procedure Act, bankruptcy, fair credit reporting, the Freedom of Information Act, and other areas of consumer law; *and*
- Investigating and litigating consumer protection and tort claims against for-profit colleges and private student lenders.

#### **Qualifications**

The ideal candidate will have:

- A law degree and admission to the bar (or plans to take the bar exam in July 2020), with the ability to waive into the District of Columbia, if not already admitted;
- Strong research, analytical, and 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; *and*
- A commitment to Student Defense's mission, purpose, and values.

Student Defense prefers applicants with knowledge of and experience with consumer protection law, Administrative Procedure Act claims, and student lending issues, although we will consider applications from other exceptional attorneys.

#### **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, among others.

**To Apply**

Please e-mail a resume, cover letter, ten-page writing sample, and transcript to [careers@defendstudents.org](mailto:careers@defendstudents.org) as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2020. Student Defense will review applications and make a decision on a rolling basis.

Please address your cover letter to the “Student Defense Legal Fellow Hiring Committee” and include “Legal Fellow Application” 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.