

PUBLIC CITIZEN LITIGATION GROUP
ALAN MORRISON SUPREME COURT ASSISTANCE PROJECT

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
SUPREME COURT ASSISTANCE PROJECT FELLOW

Spend one year working on Supreme Court cases for a public interest firm with a substantial Supreme Court practice. Start date approximately mid-August 2010 – mid-August 2011.

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 actions, open government, and the First Amendment, including Internet free speech. We litigate cases at all levels of the federal and state judiciaries and have argued 55 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, including four in both the 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 Terms.

To augment our Supreme Court litigation, we operate a Supreme Court Assistance Project (SCAP), named after Litigation Group founder Alan Morrison, to help small firm practitioners, lawyers for other non-profit organizations, and other lawyers with little or no experience in Supreme Court litigation. SCAP provides direct assistance to lawyers before review is granted, either by helping with a petition for certiorari or a brief in opposition, and assistance in cases in which review is granted, working with the lawyers to prepare briefs and oral argument. In some cases the principal role is assumed by a Litigation Group attorney, but generally we act as co-counsel.

We are looking for a bright and energetic lawyer to coordinate the Project and work on Supreme Court cases for one year. Most, but not all, of the cases on which we work are civil rather than criminal. Most of the pre-grant cases involve assistance to the party who won below, where our role is to help devise a strategy to keep the case out of the Court and thereby preserve a victory.

The fellow will review all paid cert. petitions. Working under the direct supervision of the Group's director, the fellow makes an initial judgment about whether the case is of no, little, or considerable interest to the Project, and prepares a memo on cases in which we may be interested. Additional research and analysis are often required to determine whether assertions, such as a conflict among the courts of appeals, are supportable. The fellow then makes an initial contact with the attorney to whom help is being offered to explain the Project and the assistance that we can provide. All cases accepted by the Court for full review are considered for possible assistance by the Project. When an offer of help is accepted, one of the Group's attorneys assumes principal responsibility for the case within the office. Increasingly, we have found ways to reach out to potential petitioners who might wish to use our services as well. For a list of our current SCAP cases, see http://www.citizen.org/litigation/forms/scap_index.cfm.

The Fellow participates fully in all aspects of the Project, including working on draft briefs at the certiorari and merits stages, research and writing, and attending oral arguments. The Group

provides moot courts for many advocates before their Supreme Court arguments, and another component of the fellow's job is to organize and coordinate these moot courts. The fellow also takes charge of the public persona of the Project, providing up-to-date information on key cases the Project is monitoring for both the SCAP website (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation/supremecourt>) and an e-newsletter called SCAP Watch (<http://action.citizen.org/signUp.jsp?key=1954&t=LitGroupcjp.dwt>), which provides updates before each Supreme Court conference on pending cert. petitions of public interest.

Merely listing the Fellow's job duties, however, does not capture just how fascinating the job is. The SCAP Fellowship provides a bird's-eye-view of nationally important public interest litigation and of the most significant and contentious legal issues of the day, issues that have divided courts across the country. The fellow is given the opportunity to be involved with all aspects of Supreme Court litigation—from initial strategizing to brief writing to moot courts. In addition to work on the Project, the fellow also has an opportunity to work on other Litigation Group cases. Typically, Fellows litigate at least one case during their tenure, with the assistance of lawyers in the office.

The annual salary is approximately \$46,000, plus fully paid comprehensive health insurance (covering employee and dependents, but not the employee's spouse) and three weeks' paid vacation. Applicants should have a solid academic background, excellent writing and analytical skills, and knowledge of a wide range of subject areas that arise in Supreme Court litigation (that knowledge need not be in-depth). Ideal applicants are bright, innovative, socially adept, and self-starters. Some practical litigation experience in 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. Minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

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

In addition to the SCAP website, we urge job applicants to consult the Litigation Group website (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation>) for general information on the work of the Litigation Group. The application deadline is December 15, 2009, but an offer may be extended as early as November. Interviews may either be in person or on the telephone.