

EDUCATION LAW CENTER

LEGAL AND POLICY ADVOCACY COUNSEL

[Education Law Center](#) (ELC) seeks a full-time attorney to fill the position of Legal and Policy Counsel to support advocacy campaigns working to protect and strengthen the right to public education under state and federal law in states across the country.

Position Description

With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ELC recently launched an innovative approach to provide legal and policy support to advocacy partners and campaigns working to advance state-level school funding reform, resource equity, school diversity, non-discrimination, and education opportunities for pre-K to 12 public school students. ELC seeks an attorney to serve as Legal and Policy Advocacy Counsel (“Advocacy Counsel”) to enhance ongoing efforts to hold states accountable for their constitutional obligation to maintain and support a free, high quality and effective system of public education for all resident children.

The Advocacy Counsel, in collaboration with state partners, campaigns and networks, will evaluate, advise and make recommendations on a range of legal and policy challenges impacting the provision of public education, as guaranteed by state constitutions. This work will elevate issues and ensure education equity in three substantive priority areas:

- 1) Fair School Funding: school finance reform, safe and adequate facilities, access to high quality preschool and provision of resources essential to ensure student success, especially for at-risk students and students in high poverty, racially isolated districts and schools;
- 2) Equitable Learning Environments: addressing desegregation and promoting diversity, ensuring due process, fair school discipline, and effectuation of rights of students with disabilities, English language learners, homeless students and other marginalized student populations; and
- 3) System Accountability: opposing privatization and vouchers, holding state’s accountable for fully effectuate students’ right to public education.

The Advocacy Counsel will also work with state partners to develop and implement programs and trainings designed to embed their advocacy campaigns in the framework of students’ legal right to public education under state constitutions and laws and federal law. The Counsel will also assist ELC’s litigation team in ongoing efforts to engage private law firms to provide pro

bono legal assistance and counsel to support state advocacy partners and campaigns on policy and legal matters and, where appropriate, litigation.

The Advocacy Counsel will actively engage ELC's partners and organizations in the [Partnership for Equity and Education Rights network](#), the [Resource Equity Funders Collaborative](#), and the [Public Funds Public Schools](#) campaign and work with those organizations to develop and legal issues and policies that promote equity and strengthen the public education rights of all students.

Job Responsibilities

The specific duties of the Advocacy Counsel include but are not limited to:

- Conducting legal analysis, research and investigation;
- Providing legal advice, guidance and opinions both internally and to state campaign partners;
- Recommending strategies and approaches for legal advocacy;
- Drafting letters, memoranda, comments and other documents;
- Providing assistance to local counsel and recruiting pro bono counsel;
- Presenting analyses and findings in webinars, meetings and other forums;
- Participating in PEER, REFC, PFPS and other network meetings and convenings;
- Providing legal and policy assistance to state level advocacy campaigns;
- Identifying potential litigation as a strategy to address violations of students' public education rights and coordinating with ELC's litigation team, other organizations, and private law firms on pursuing litigation where appropriate to support and advance advocacy campaigns;
- Producing news articles, policy briefs and reports;
- Building networks with those engaged in related work; and
- Coordinating work with ELC's policy, litigation, research, communications and advocacy teams.

Qualifications

- A demonstrated commitment to education equity, racial justice in education, and support for state and local leaders and community organizations to achieve their vision for public education;
- Experience working with or in diverse communities, including with people of color, LGBTQ+ people, youth, non-English speakers, immigrants, persons with disabilities, or low-income individuals;
- Ability to prioritize the leadership and voice of those most impacted by education inequity, including communities of color and low-wealth communities;
- Minimum of four years of legal practice experience beyond law school;
- Experience in civil rights, education law and/or policy;

- Excellent legal research and analytical skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills, including through social and other media;
- Excellent organizational, networking, and relationship-building skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaboration across organizational boundaries to achieve agreed-upon goals; and
- Commitment to ELC's mission.

Salary and Benefits

Salary range is \$100,000 to \$125,000, commensurate with experience. Paid vacation and sick leave will be provided. ELC's benefit package includes medical, life, disability and dental insurance, as well as a retirement savings program. There is the opportunity for this position to work remotely.

How to apply

To apply, send a resume, cover letter and two writing samples by email to: Theresa Luhm, Director of Finance and Operations, at tluhm@edlawcenter.org.

Deadline

The position will be open until filled.

ELC is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining exceptional people, and to creating a work environment that is dynamic, rewarding, and respectful toward all employees. ELC is an equal opportunity employer that respects the full spectrum of races, ethnicities, national origins, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, beliefs, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and levels of physical ability. ELC encourages persons of color, women, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented communities to apply.

About ELC

Founded in 1973, Education Law Center (ELC) pursues education justice and equity to ensure that all students receive a high-quality public education. Widely recognized for groundbreaking litigation, ELC also promotes educational equity through coalition building and strategic partnerships, advocacy, policy analysis and development, communications, and action-focused research. For more information about ELC's work, please visit www.edlawcenter.org.