



**EDUCATION LAW CENTER
FULL-TIME EDUCATION RIGHTS ATTORNEY POSITION
DESCRIPTION**

[Education Law Center](#) (ELC) seeks a full-time attorney to join the organization's legal, research and communications team working across the country to enforce the education rights of public school students under state and federal law.

Position Description

With a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ELC plans to launch a new model for providing legal assistance that enhances the efficacy of advocacy to achieve state-level school funding and resource equity. The lawyer hired for this position will lead that effort. The work will include evaluating and advising state school funding campaigns on the legal implications of a variety of policy issues including, but not limited to: the need for more resources to address COVID-19 impacts; proposed state funding cuts; proposed uses of federal emergency relief funds; continuing underfunding in state education budgets; proposed reforms to school funding formulas; the need for school building improvements; the lack of services for students with disabilities and English learners; the impact on students of color and on districts and schools segregated by race and poverty; and the proposed and actual diversion of public school funds to private schools through voucher programs.

The work will prioritize state school funding campaigns participating in the [Partnership for Equity and Education Rights network](#) and the [Resource Equity Funders Collaborative](#).

Job Responsibilities

The specific duties 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 and other network meetings and convenings;
- Providing technical legal assistance to state level school funding campaigns;

- Coordinating attorneys at ELC and other organizations on litigation and other advocacy activities;
- Producing news articles, policy briefs and reports; and
- Building networks with those engaged in related work;

Qualifications

- Minimum of four years of legal practice/litigation experience beyond law school;
- Admission to at least one state and one federal bar;
- Experience in civil rights, education law and/or policy;
- Excellent legal research and analytical skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills, including 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 the mission of ELC.

Salary and Benefits

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Paid vacation and sick leave will be provided. ELC's benefit package includes medical, life, and dental insurance, as well as a retirement savings program. Depending on circumstances, there is a possibility for the person in this position to work remotely.

How to apply

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

Deadline

The position will be open until filled.

ELC is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages persons with disabilities, persons of color, women, and LGBTQI persons to apply.

About Education Law Center

For nearly 50 years, ELC has served as the "legal defense fund" for enforcing students education rights in New Jersey New York and in states across the country. ELC's work on advancing the legal rights of students, especially students in schools segregated by poverty and race, is widely recognized for yielding measurable benefits for children – e.g., 50,000 three- and four-year-old children attending high quality "Abbott" preschool in New Jersey; thousands of children in Flint, Michigan now eligible for screening and evaluations to assess the lead crisis impacts on their need for special education; and preventing state budget cuts and securing the restoration of teachers and support staff in New York school districts.

The hallmark of ELC's approach is to embed its legal work squarely within broader state advocacy campaigns and efforts to address and remedy entrenched inequities and disparities, especially for historically excluded students. Inadequate school funding, a lack of early education, deplorable school buildings, deficits in bilingual and special education are among the systemic deprivations of state education rights ELC has tackled over the years, not only developing an unmatched expertise in the legal and policy aspects of these issues, but also adding a crucial legal dimension to state-based advocacy for school funding reform and resource equity.