



Director of Litigation
National Consumer Law Center
Boston or Washington, D.C.
nclc.org

Send Nominations or Cover Letter and Resume to:

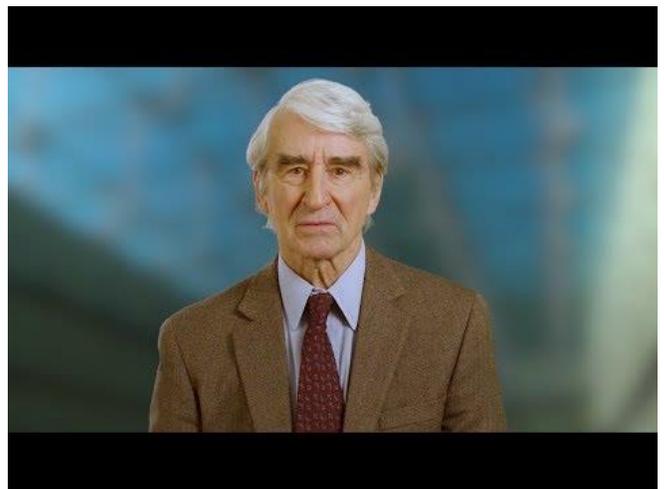
Terri Rutter
Assistant Vice President, Lindauer
857-445-4918
trutter@lindauglobal.com

The Opportunity:

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC), the country's preeminent advocate for low-income consumers, seeks an experienced professional to join the NCLC management team as the Director of Litigation. The organization is looking for a collegial and collaborative leader who can develop strong working relationships with internal and external partners and lead NCLC's critical legal work to file and litigate lawsuits—mostly class actions—with the goal of benefitting low-income consumers.

The Director of Litigation will be a bold experienced litigator who cares deeply about the mission and is highly skilled at both developing strategies that will lead to successful outcomes and in building and maintaining solid relationships with class action litigation partners.

This is an exciting opportunity to work for a growing and dynamic national advocacy organization that is fighting to level the economic playing field and ensure greater economic fairness and security, especially as it relates to advancing racial justice. This position will report to the Deputy Director and will play an important leadership role in the organization.



National Consumer Law Center

The National Consumer Law Center proudly traces its roots to the 1960s “War on Poverty” and its work as a support center for legal services offices. From its first days, NCLC has shared its expertise with on-the-ground legal aid lawyers who directly represent low-income people and has supported a strong and growing group of private attorneys who represent consumers in every corner of the nation.

NCLC has used its knowledge of the economic problems facing low-income people to advocate for vital consumer protection policies. Its attorneys are recognized as leading experts in fringe lending, home mortgages and foreclosures, energy and utilities, debt collection, student loans, credit reporting, auto sales and financing, credit discrimination, and other areas of critical importance to low-income families. Policies and legislative language drafted by NCLC advocates have been adopted, or have significantly influenced, countless consumer protection measures at both the federal and state levels.

NCLC’s expertise includes policy analysis, high-impact advocacy, litigation, and extensive training for a nationwide network of consumer advocates. It works closely with nonprofit and legal services organizations, private attorneys, civil rights and grassroots organizations, and federal and state policymakers across the nation to stop exploitative practices, help financially stressed families build and retain wealth, and advance economic fairness. NCLC publishes a comprehensive set of legal treatises (with more than 6,000 subscribers), relied on by consumer advocates across the country and widely cited in judicial opinions. It also brings together consumer attorneys to learn about cutting-edge developments in consumer law at conferences and trainings, including approximately 1,000 attorneys at the annual Consumer Rights Litigation Conference.

NCLC has developed a number of key initiatives to help focus its resources on urgent problems. As one example, its Racial Justice and Equal Economic Opportunity Project has brought a racial justice lens to virtually all of the organization’s advocacy. The project is focused on ending the destructive financial practices that drain wealth and resources from families and communities of color. The project builds on NCLC’s long history of fair lending and civil rights advocacy and its strong connections with other civil rights and economic justice organizations. For more information on NCLC’s advocacy initiatives, see www.nclc.org.

NCLC is currently enjoying a period of sustained growth, including recent investments in new program areas and vital infrastructure. It has a staff of 60, including 30 advocates, located mostly in Boston and Washington, D.C. The organization has a diverse mix of funding sources, including grants, contracts, publications and conference revenue, court awards, and individual donations. Its annual budget is approximately \$11 million, and its reserves are used to fund strategic and high-impact initiatives.

Litigation

NCLC represents consumers in cutting-edge litigation that seeks to reform the rules of the marketplace. NCLC is interested in cases that will have a far-reaching impact and can benefit from our unique legal and

policy expertise. To maximize its limited resources, NCLC helps bring together strong [litigation teams](#) made up of private lawyers, legal aid, and nonprofit groups.

NCLC's litigation activities are restricted to consumer law matters, focusing on cases where low-income consumers may benefit from NCLC's specialized expertise, particularly in the areas of consumer sales and services, credit, debt collection, bankruptcy, preservation of home ownership, and the provision of services to low-income utility users and potential users. NCLC's initiation of litigation is guided by an internal litigation steering committee made up of other attorneys on staff.

NCLC often files or joins [amicus briefs](#) on behalf of our low-income clients. In collaboration with national, state, and local organizations and attorney advocates, NCLC provides guidance on a wide range of cases impacting low- to middle-income consumers and their families.

Director of Litigation

NCLC seeks an experienced litigator to act as NCLC's Director of Litigation (Director) and lead the organization's litigation projects. As a member of NCLC's advocacy staff, the Director will develop and implement litigation strategies that advance the interests of low-income consumers. NCLC's litigation effort focuses on high-impact, innovative litigation, primarily class actions. Members of NCLC's two-person litigation team (often supplemented by other attorneys on staff) typically co-counsel these cases with private or legal services attorneys.

The Director both leads the project and carries an active caseload of complex, challenging cases that require intensive research, writing, negotiation, court appearances, and strategy development. The position also involves organizing and presenting at training conferences and seminars, outreach to the consumer litigation bar, occasional legal advice to NCLC about governance and external relations, and work on NCLC's Consumer Class Actions manual. It sometimes involves policy advocacy, primarily on litigation-related topics; contributions to NCLC work on non-litigation projects and publications; and development of relationships with prominent attorneys in the consumer law community.

This exciting opportunity is being shared in anticipation of the retirement of the current Director of Litigation in 2023. The new Director will overlap with the existing Director for 12-15 months, gradually assume the Director's duties, and officially assume the title at the end of 2023.

Presence in the Boston headquarters office at least two days a week is highly preferred, but candidates who will work in the Washington, D.C. office at least two days a week will be considered. The majority of NCLC's office-based staff currently work a hybrid schedule of 2 days in the office and 3 days at home. Periodic travel is required for meetings, presentations, court appearances, and conferences.

Key Responsibilities

- Identify, investigate, prepare, and participate in significant litigation to promote economic justice for low-income consumers.

- Promote NCLC's co-counseling role.
- Develop and maintain nationwide networks of litigators, act as a liaison to litigation directors at legal services programs and other public interest organizations, and foster relations with other organizations and governmental agencies.
- With others, set litigation priorities and coordinate the role of litigation in NCLC's advocacy campaigns.
- Supervise the litigation team and mentor staff attorneys in litigation.
- Promote a diverse, inclusive, and equal opportunity work environment.
- Contribute to fundraising efforts; develop and maintain relationships with existing and potential supporters in the consumer law community.
- Research and write on consumer issues (primarily litigation issues).
- Provide legal and technical support to private and civil legal aid lawyers, consumer advocates, and government officials.
- Organize, lead, and present at workshops, conferences, webinars and other training sessions for lawyers and advocates, including major responsibility for NCLC's annual Class Action Symposium
- Lead or participate in advocacy projects, primarily on litigation issues such as court rules and litigation-related legislation; develop and participate in implementing strategies to achieve policy change, including communications strategies.
- Meet with and respond to requests from policymakers, other advocacy organizations, industry groups, and the media; lead NCLC's interaction with the media on litigation-related issues.

Qualifications

- Law degree and admission to the bar in at least one state.
- At least 10 years of complex litigation experience in consumer cases, cases in closely related areas, or public interest cases, preferably including class actions.
- Outstanding writing, analytical, and litigation skills, including a demonstrated ability to analyze and write about complex legal issues.
- Consumer law expertise preferred.
- A demonstrated commitment to advocating for equity for low-income and other economically disadvantaged people, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
- Outstanding communication and advocacy skills.
- The ability to think creatively, be strategic, and exercise good judgment.
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Experience overseeing and directing cases as well as mentoring and advising junior attorneys working on these cases.

Salary

NCLC pays on a competitive salary scale, commensurate with years of experience. NCLC conducts a formal review of its salary structure every three years to ensure that we are remaining competitive with the relevant labor market.

Benefits

NCLC offers an outstanding benefits package that includes employer-paid medical, dental, life and disability insurance, as well as pre-tax savings plans, a retirement savings plan with employer contribution, and generous paid time off including holidays, sick time, personal time, parental and family leave, and 4 weeks of vacation per year.

Relocation assistance is available for candidates who are prepared to relocate to the Boston or Washington, D.C. area.

NCLC 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 to other non-work-related factors.

Leadership



Richard Dubois
Executive Director

Richard Dubois is the Executive Director of NCLC. Rich began his career in the consumer movement and has over 20 years of wide-ranging experience in the field. He directs a staff of highly experienced attorneys, advocates, and researchers specializing in issues of consumer law and policy in NCLC's Boston and Washington, D.C., offices. Rich has been with NCLC since 1997, having served as Deputy Director, Director of Development and Project Planning, and as an attorney focusing on foreclosure prevention and sustainable homeownership issues. As Director of Development, he was responsible for all fundraising and communications activities, including individual gifts, cy pres court awards, corporate and foundation support, and federal and state grants: and also conferences, trainings, and special events. As an attorney, he led trainings and conference sessions on homeownership issues to housing counselors, legal aid attorneys, private lawyers, and other advocates. He was a co-author of [Consumer Warranty Law](#), a contributing author to [Surviving Debt](#), and co-author of a model state law on home improvement contracting. Previously an attorney at the Center for Insurance Research, he earned a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.

Procedure for Candidacy

Lindauer, a global search and talent firm, has been retained to conduct this search on behalf of National Consumer Law Center. Consideration of candidates will continue until the position is filled.

Candidates should submit, in confidence, a resume and cover letter. Communications, nominations, applications, and inquiries concerning this search should be directed to Terri Rutter, Assistant Vice President at trutter@lindauerglobal.com.

Prior to submitting your resume for this position, please read it over for accuracy. Lindauer does verify academic credentials for its candidates.