

Human rights and civil liberties

Are looking for a lawyer like you to defend them

About the B.C. Civil Liberties Association

The BC Civil Liberties Association is one of Canada's leading social and democratic justice not-for-profit organizations. With a mandate that includes work on police accountability, government transparency, voting rights, prisoners' rights, national security issues and women's rights, we are one of the most vibrant and visible advocacy groups in Canada.

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Counsel or Senior Counsel Position

The BCCLA seeks a lawyer for a contract position of at least a year as Counsel or Senior Counsel with our legal department, with the designation to be commensurate with experience. The position will commence in February 2013.

The successful candidate will work on a wide range of constitutional issues to bring about systemic change through impact-driven litigation. Our current legal cases include ground breaking constitutional litigation on the right to die with dignity for the seriously ill; a challenge to use of indefinite solitary confinement in Canadian prisons and high profile interventions at the Supreme Court of Canada and all other levels of court across Canada. Although the position is a contract position, if funding allows, the position may continue on a permanent basis.

Working under the Litigation Director, the counsel in this position has the following principal responsibilities:

- Litigating at all levels of court and tribunals, including writing and reviewing briefs and affidavits, conducting legal research and preparing witnesses;
- Developing new cases and identifying and working with potential plaintiffs and witnesses;
- Researching and maintaining watching briefs on appellate litigation across Canada;
- Developing and maintaining a network of leading pro bono legal counsel across Canada who litigate matters for the BCCLA;
- Advancing BCCLA goals through public education, advocacy and media;
- Providing support to the Litigation Director on an as-needed basis.

Experience and Qualifications

- Demonstrated interest in human rights, civil liberties and social justice;
- J.D. or LLB degree;
- A minimum of three but preferably at least five years of litigation experience;
- Ability to engage in complex legal analysis and fact investigation in an impact litigation setting;
- Excellent legal research and writing skills;
- Excellent oral and written communication and analytic skills;
- Experience conducting factual research and interviewing witnesses;
- Experience with media and public relations;
- Dynamic communicator with strong interpersonal skills, who is both a leader and collaborator.
- Experience in community outreach preferably including working with marginalized communities an asset.
- Ability to manage several projects in a fast-paced work environment.

Compensation

Salary is based on experience and qualifications. Excellent benefits provided, including paid vacation and extended health and dental benefits. Progressive environment includes possibility for flexible work arrangements.

To apply, please submit your cover letter, resume, a legal writing sample, and contact information for three references by email to BCCLA Litigation Director Grace Pastine at grace@bccla.org (reference "Senior Counsel Position" in the subject line) or by mail to:

Grace Pastine
BC Civil Liberties Association
900 Helmcken Street, 2nd Floor
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1B3

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, which will not be until January 21st, 2013. We thank all applicants for their interest, but we will respond only to candidates who are being considered for an interview.