Who we are:

The Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC.org) is a nonprofit organization that supports movements that seek to dismantle the political and economic structures at the root of social inequality and environmental destruction. We provide litigation, education, and legal and strategic resources to strengthen and embolden the success of those movements. Our motto is “Assert your rights, we’ve got your back.” We have provided pro bono activist defense to over 4,500 social, environmental, and climate justice activists, as well as providing free Know Your Rights and related trainings to over 10,500 people. Our offices are headquartered in Eugene, Oregon.

Attorney Positions:

Eugene, Oregon position: We are seeking an associate activist attorney with a minimum of three years of criminal defense experience and environmental/social justice movement orientation to work on activist defense, activist grand jury witness representation, and related cases. Strong trial skills and the ability to work well with diverse teams of activists will be required. The associate will report to the Senior Attorney and will be expected to work on all aspects of our case work, including intake, drafting motions and briefs, working with legal teams and defendant groups, and litigating cases at trial or on appeal. In addition, the associate will be expected to contribute to our Dissent & Democracy program by conducting public education trainings. In addition to criminal defense experience, attorneys with experience or interest in litigating civil rights impact cases and SLAPP defense cases are strongly encouraged to apply.

We are looking for well-rounded activist attorneys who bring hard work, initiative, commitment, and passion for our work, our clients, and the progressive movements we support and defend. The ideal candidates will have environmental, climate, and/or anti-capitalist and anti-racist movement background, as well as experience litigating state and federal criminal cases, and related work.

This position is located in our Eugene, Oregon office. Our litigation is nationwide and some travel will be required.

Climate frontline position: We are seeking an associate activist attorney with a minimum of five years of criminal defense experience and environmental/social justice movement orientation to work on activist defense, activist grand jury witness representation, and related cases from a remote office setting. Strong trial skills and the ability to work well with diverse teams of activists will be required. The associate will report to the Senior Attorney and will be expected to work on all aspects of our case work, including intake, drafting motions and briefs, working with legal teams and defendant groups, as well as litigating cases at trial or on appeal. In addition, the associate will be expected to contribute to our Dissent & Democracy program by conducting public education trainings. In addition to criminal defense experience, attorneys with experience or interest in litigating civil rights impact cases and SLAPP defense cases are strongly encouraged to apply.
We are looking for experienced, well-rounded activist attorneys who bring hard work, initiative, commitment, and passion for our work, our clients, and the progressive movements we support and defend. The ideal candidate will have environmental, climate, and/or anti-capitalist and anti-racist movement background, as well as experience litigating state and federal criminal cases, and related work.

This position will be located in, or near, an underserved climate frontline region—likely in the middle of the U.S. This attorney will work remotely, likely from a home or small office. Our litigation is nationwide and some travel will be required, including to Eugene, Oregon.

**Required Qualifications:**

- **Three years minimum experience as a criminal defense attorney for Eugene position; five years for remote position**
- Admitted to practice law in Oregon, Washington, or California, or must be admitted to a different state bar at the time of application and willing to apply for admission to another bar if necessary
- Strong litigation, research, and writing skills; jury trial experience and skills
- Able to meet deadlines and perform multiple tasks while maintaining attention to detail
- Demonstrated commitment to civil and human rights, racial and climate justice, and environmental and animal rights
- Excellent diverse people skills, culturally appropriate, anti-racist, anti-oppression orientation; and strong team member desired

**Preferred Experience:**

- Bilingual English/Spanish speaker strongly preferred
- Experience in community organizing work and/or social justice activism
- Experience with security culture and digital security
- Experience in a non-profit legal services organization
- Experience and/or willingness to learn and assist in organizational fundraising

**Compensation and Benefits for Attorney Positions:**

We offer a mission and employee-focused work environment and competitive public interest compensation.

- Salary range starting at $60,000, commensurate with experience
- Flexible work schedule (when not under litigation deadlines)
- Generous holiday, vacation, and sick leave policies
- Some professional dues paid by CLDC
- Some benefits, including monthly healthcare reimbursement and professional development budget

Our core values lead us to seek a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds to achieve our mission and to maintain an inclusive environment where all staff are valued and respected. As an equal opportunity affirmative action employer, we are committed to employment practices that ensure that employees and applicants for employment are provided with equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or any other factor that is not related to the position. We seek to redress past discrimination through active measures to ensure equal opportunity in employment.
The CLDC will consider qualified applicants with arrest and conviction records for employment.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit:
- Resume
- Cover letter stating your interest and experience; which position you are applying for
- Two writing samples, ideally relevant briefs and/or pleadings
- Three professional references and at least one environmental/social justice activist reference

Please send all materials in a single PDF to office[at]cldc.org—Subject: “[Your last name]—Associate Activist Defense Attorney.”

Please, no phone calls, hard copies, or drop-ins. If you’re having technical difficulties submitting your application or questions, please reach out to charles[at]cldc.org.