

BPI
Senior Counsel
Location: Chicago, IL



Description

BPI is a Chicago-based public interest law and policy center that for over 50 years has worked to create a just society. We have a long track record of innovative, effective advocacy across a broad range of social justice issues. Our work today focuses on addressing the challenges of poverty and racial and economic inequity, increasing housing and educational opportunity, building vital communities, strengthening early childhood learning, reforming our criminal justice system, and improving governmental integrity and efficiency. BPI takes a multi-disciplinary approach in its advocacy, including legal and policy research, policy development, organizing, and litigation. A collaborative and stimulating workplace, BPI is committed to offering opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully to work that advances a just society.

BPI seeks an experienced attorney with a passion for social justice to join our staff as **Senior Counsel**. This mid-level or senior attorney will develop and conduct advocacy and, as appropriate, litigation, in areas that advance social justice, including criminal justice reform. This attorney will take a lead role in advocacy and litigation and will provide organizational leadership and management oversight for the organization. This is an exciting opportunity to provide vision, leadership, and support in BPI's growing criminal justice reform work, as well as across the range of issues that BPI works to address.

Competitive salary is commensurate with experience.

Responsibilities

- Conduct legal advocacy, including counseling advocates, community members, and policy makers; drafting and reviewing legislation; and, where appropriate, litigating in federal and state courts;
- Identify, develop, and implement policy strategies consistent with BPI's program areas including educating policymakers, agency officials, stakeholders and the general public about the need for reforms to address issues and propose solid recommendations for change;
- Provide guidance and active supervision to attorneys, program associates, interns and volunteers to ensure they have the skills and tools necessary to advance BPI's work;
- Provide strategic leadership in BPI's program areas by providing program direction and contributing to the development and implementation of strategies, plans, and goals;
- Build and/or participate in coalitions, partnerships and task forces working to advance BPI's program areas;
- Serve as an ambassador for BPI, building and sustaining external relationships;

- Contribute to the effective administration of the organization, including participation in recruitment and hiring and working with communications, research, and development professionals;
- Exemplify BPI’s core values and advance BPI’s vision in all aspects of our work; and
- Travel in Chicagoland, Illinois, and to national conferences and meetings as needed.

Qualifications

- Seven or more years of experience in public interest law or policy advocacy;
- An enterprising mindset, a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and a passion for social justice and BPI’s mission;
- Top-notch research, writing and public speaking skills, including an ability to succinctly translate complex policy and legal concepts into information understandable by legislative, media, political, legal, and public audiences;
- Excellent analytic and strategic skill;
- An ability to work effectively in a team-based and deadline-driven environment;
- Strong interpersonal skills and sound judgment, including the ability to work with diverse constituencies both inside and outside the organization;
- An ability to develop and manage strong relationships and partnerships with coalitions of organizations, community members/leaders, and public officials;
- Experience in managing diverse teams comprising attorneys, communications experts, and/or community organizers;
- Experience in successfully handling complex litigation and an ability to assume significant leadership in litigation;
- Experience engaging in creative problem solving and taking initiative, while utilizing a solutions-oriented approach and exhibiting flexibility and good judgement;
- Ability to travel;
- Multilingual skills are a plus, but not required; and
- Juris Doctor degree and admission to the Illinois Bar.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter explaining your interest and qualification for this position, resume, and two writing samples to: hire@bpichicago.org. If your candidacy advances to the final round, you will be asked to provide a list of four professional references.

BPI is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. We strongly encourage applications from women, people of color, immigrants, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, people with lived experience of poverty, and people from other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups.

Reasonable accommodation will be made so that qualified applicants with disabilities may participate in the application process. Please advise in writing of special needs at the time of application.