

# Good Law Project

*We defend, define and change the law to protect the environment, uphold democracy and ensure no one is left behind.*

Public Law Litigator – Upholding Democracy

**Deadline for applications: 11:30pm, 29 March 2021**

## **Good Law Project: Public Law Litigator – Upholding Democracy.**

*At Good Law Project we are not for or against Government. But we are for good governance. Join us to use litigation strategically to hold those with power to account and to protect and uphold our democracy.*

### **About Good Law Project**

Good Law Project's mission is to achieve change through the law. We defend, define and change the law to protect the environment, uphold democracy and ensure no one is left behind. We hold government and others to account through challenges in the courts, or through campaigning for positive change.

We are a small and young organisation, but we have been expanding quickly, with increasingly prominent and successful legal cases: we had a primary role in overturning the prorogation of Parliament 18 months ago and have more recently been shining a bright light on the government's award of PPE contracts and jobs to their friends and associates. We raise funds directly from the public for our work in the public interest, and operate on a not for profit basis. We are brave, honest and decisive – those are Good Law Project's values.

See our website for more about what we do: <https://goodlawproject.org/>

We are looking for a public law litigator to join our outstanding legal team to further develop our work, principally in our “upholding democracy” workstream. We are committed to holding government and other powerful actors to account in the public interest, promoting transparency, the upholding of our democratic institutions, due process and the rule of law.

### **You can read the full job description and person specification below.**

The purpose of the role is to identify and manage casework within Good Law Project's litigation portfolio, with a particular focus on the “upholding democracy” workstream. See <https://rebrand.ly/upholding-democracy>

You will report to our Legal Director and will have some paralegal and administrative support. You can see how the role fits into the current GLP team at the end of this application information.

The role requires a qualified barrister or solicitor, who has considerable experience of running their own litigation, most likely through a more senior role in private practice, and who has minimal need for supervision on day-to-day casework.

**Salary £60,000** per annum with generous benefits

**Hours:** 35 hours per week, over 5 days

**Contract type:** permanent, after completion of 3 months' probation

**Location:** Remote currently due to COVID-19; ultimately working in central London with some flexibility.

### **Essential experience and attributes**

The successful candidate will:

- Have a proven track record as a public law litigator in complex litigation
- Have demonstrable case experience in relation to issues of transparency, public good, political and governmental accountability, use of public money and public sector equality duty
- Have a track-record of managing own caseload largely unsupervised, including instructing counsel
- Support GLP's values and demonstrate commitment to its areas of work
- Have knowledge in one or more of the following areas of law:
  - public procurement
  - public appointments
  - constitutional and administrative law e.g. Henry VIII powers, secondary legislation
  - law of the EU / emerging law of the future relationship
  - freedom of information
  - electoral law and political funding
  - devolution in the UK

**To apply**, please send us **one 3-page document** consisting of your CV (max one page) with a covering letter of no more than two pages outlining why you are interested in the role, and how you meet the requirements, together with the details of two referees to [jobs@goodlawproject.org](mailto:jobs@goodlawproject.org), **with the subject line "Public law litigator (upholding democracy)"**.

**Deadline for applications: 11:30pm, 29 March 2021**

We intend to hold interviews via Zoom between 12 and 14 April, with specific dates/times to be confirmed.

We welcome and encourage applicants from all backgrounds and do not discriminate on the basis of age, disability (physical or learning), LGBT or relationship status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or social class. We particularly welcome applications from BAME candidates and/or those with lived experience of disadvantage.

# Good Law Project

## Job Description and Person Specification

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### JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job title:** Public Law Litigator (Upholding Democracy)

**Job Purpose:** The post-holder will identify and manage casework within Good Law Project's litigation portfolio, with a particular focus on the "upholding democracy" workstream. See <https://rebrand.ly/upholding-democracy>

**Reports to:** Legal Director

**Responsible for:** none formally at present though professional supervision of one or more paralegal / administrative assistants is expected.

### 1 Duties and key responsibilities

#### Legal Casework

- Conduct all aspects of allocated casework, including instructing and working with counsel
- Contribute to the development of and maintain digital systems to keep casework records, to the highest professional standards
- Develop from an early stage new public interest cases which address issues which undermine democratic institutions, transparency, due process and the rule of law, making recommendations to the Legal Director regarding their viability and merits
- Identify and work with colleagues and partner organisations to achieve shared goals through strategic litigation or legislative change
- Comply with all professional regulatory requirements
- Supervise and be accountable for as professionally required the work of paralegals or administrative assistants who may be supporting you with casework tasks

## **2 General Responsibilities**

- Be flexible and carry out other associated duties as may arise, develop or reasonably be assigned in line with the broad remit of the position
- Actively support and embed GLP's values and its positive culture in your professional practice at all times
- Maintain and improve competencies through continuous professional development
- Abide by all organisational policies, codes of conduct and practices and legal requirements
- Support and promote inclusion, diversity and equality of opportunity in the workplace
- Treat with confidentiality any personal, private or sensitive information about individual organisations, clients, donors and supporters, staff and projects

## **Person Specification – Public Law Litigator (Upholding Democracy)**

### **1 Experience**

- Proven track record as a public law litigator in complex litigation
- Demonstrable case experience in relation to issues of transparency, public good, political and governmental accountability, use of public money and the public sector equality duty
- Track-record of managing own caseload largely unsupervised
- Experience in instructing counsel and other lawyers in outsourced arrangements.

## **2 Skills and Abilities**

- Commitment to a high standard of professional behaviours, including collaboration, honesty and integrity
- Excellent legal research, writing, advisory and advocacy skills
- Strong creative and critical analytical skills, and an ability to grasp quickly new concepts and areas of the law with an openness to learning new ideas
- Confident working with and assimilating complex technical, commercial, political, and legal material
- Self-motivated with ability to work unsupervised, but can also work co-operatively and flexibly as part of a team
- Flexibility and adaptability in attitude and approach to work, with a willingness to 'muck in' and support the team with whatever might arise, working towards a common objective
- Strong spoken and written communication skills which engage colleagues and stakeholders, encouraging understanding and participation
- Self-confident and able to take initiative in areas of responsibility
- Ability to manage multiple demands while consistently meeting casework or reporting deadlines
- IT skills in core business applications and in the use of case management systems
- Strong interpersonal skills e.g. approachable and able to demonstrate empathy while being clear about boundaries and organisational requirements
- Ability to problem-solve difficult situations and deal with them calmly and effectively
- Accurate and thorough, with attention to detail
- Willingness to innovate and seek ways to improve casework and wider organisational systems and procedures

## **3 Knowledge**

Wide ranging public law knowledge including:

- public procurement
- public appointments
- constitutional and administrative law e.g. Henry VIII powers, secondary legislation
- law of the EU / emerging law of the future relationship
- freedom of information
- electoral law and political funding
- devolution in the UK

## **4 Education/Training/Qualifications**

Qualified solicitor or barrister authorised to practise in England and Wales.

## 5 Other Requirements

- Commitment to the core values and ethos of the Good Law Project – see below
- Commitment to anti-discriminatory practice and equal opportunities and an ability to apply awareness of diversity issues to all areas of work
- Interested and motivated to further own skills and knowledge

### Our values

**Brave:** *We are brave and we are bold*

- *We are fearless of those we take on and the issues we confront*
- *We challenge injustice where we see it, even if the odds are stacked against us*
- *We take strategic risks and are open to the possibility of failure*
- *We challenge each other when it's in the best interests of Good Law Project, even if it's uncomfortable*
- *As employees we step into more responsibility outside of our comfort zone*

**Honest:** *We are honest, open and trustworthy*

- *We default to transparency both internally and externally*
- *We proactively share information*
- *We hold our hands up if we get something wrong*
- *We are candid about our successes and about our failures.*

**Decisive:** *We are decisive, nimble and responsive*

- *We take decisive action to turn ideas into reality*
- *We are responsive to the changing world*
- *As individuals, we are flexible to the needs of the organisation*
- *We balance processes and outcomes, recognising that good processes are more likely to deliver good outcomes*

