



Legal Officer

<u>Responsible to:</u>	Legal Director
<u>Salary range:</u>	£29,772 - £35,089
<u>Key relationships:</u>	Legal Director, Senior Legal Manager, Senior Legal Officers, Legal and Grants Officer, external lawyers, partners and beneficiaries
<u>Location:</u>	Media Defence, 5 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LG, UK
<u>Contract:</u>	Permanent
<u>Hours:</u>	37.5 hours (flexible), occasional evening and weekend work

About Media Defence

Media Defence is a charity that helps media to defend their rights. We support independent media, journalists and citizen journalists who are under legal threat by making sure that lawyers are available to defend them. We engage in strategic litigation to improve the regulatory environment for media freedom, make grants to organisations in various countries to run media defence programmes, and build the capacity of the lawyers and organisations we work with on issues of media law.

Media Defence was set up in 2008 and has established itself as a leader in the field. To date, we have supported over 1,000 cases, helping hundreds of journalists in over 110 countries. Our work has helped prevent over 300 years of detention for media workers and avoided £500m in damages. We have supported 40 partners and have trained 144 lawyers.

Role Summary

To conduct strategic litigation, provide case support to lawyers representing media and (citizen) journalists, deliver trainings on media law and strategic litigation, help assess grant applications, and help with communications via social media and through other channels, working closely with the Legal Director, Senior Legal Officers and Legal and Grants Officer.

Main Responsibilities

- Strategic litigation
 - Developing strategic cases in the field of freedom of expression law and digital rights
 - Undertaking legal and factual research, including on comparative and international law on freedom of expression and related issues, and the legal environment in different countries
 - Case management
 - Drafting and/or editing briefs and other litigation materials as required, including amicus briefs
 - Helping maintain contacts with pro bono lawyers and other Media Defence partners
 - Assisting in the preparation of Media Defence's litigation strategy
- Grant making and case support
 - Assisting the Legal and Grants Officer in vetting grant applications and preparing case assessments

- As the primary point of contact for local lawyers receiving a grant from Media Defence, assessing their need for case support and providing any support that may be necessary, e.g. providing advice on case strategy, reviewing proposed legal arguments or conducting research
- Analysing case outcomes
- Training
 - Updating Media Defence's training modules and materials on a regular basis
 - Delivering trainings on strategic litigation at regional mechanisms and free speech online
- Other responsibilities
 - Assisting Media Defence team members in reporting to Media Defence's board and donors by providing data regarding Media Defence's case work in a timely manner
 - Representing Media Defence at public events at home and abroad as required
 - Contributing to the website and other materials for external use as required including drafting blogs and legal updates as well as contributing to social media content.
 - Recruiting and managing legal volunteers

Person Specification

- Qualified lawyer
- At least two years' experience working as a lawyer in human rights or media law
- A good understanding of international standards on freedom of expression
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a pleasant, diplomatic manner in interacting with colleagues at all levels, contacts and the general public
- Excellent time management and organisational skills including the ability to manage effectively multiple cases and projects in a fast-paced environment
- Fluency in English with excellent writing and editorial skills
- Proven ability to work in a diverse multi-cultural environment
- Proven ability to work in a small team
- Ability to work both independently and with others
- Integrity, professional discretion and ability to handle confidential matters
- Experience of working in different legal systems would be an advantage
- Good working knowledge (spoken and written) of Russian, French and/or Spanish would be an advantage
- Must have the right to work in the UK

To apply for this role, please email your CV and covering letter referencing 'Legal Officer' to recruitment@mediadefence.org.

Closing date: 31 October 2022.

If you have any questions relating to the role or the process, or would like any adjustments made to accommodate your needs, please contact us at recruitment@mediadefence.org.

Additional

On joining Media Defence, all employees are automatically able to access professional support through our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provided by Health Assured Limited and through a digital health app, Peppy.

We offer an enhanced maternity and paternity leave package.

We provide a range of training and development tools to offer support our employees to improve or develop skills and knowledge for the benefit of both the individual and the organisation.