

Policy Counsel/Associate
Washington, DC (preferred) or Durham, NC

The Organization:

The Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) is working to ensure a fair, inclusive financial marketplace that creates opportunities for all responsible borrowers, regardless of their income, because too many hard-working people are deceived by dishonest and harmful lending practices.

While the housing crash was devastating to families at all income levels, it was disproportionately destructive to entire communities of low- and moderate-income families and borrowers of color. In fact, it wiped out generations of family wealth in these communities. Many of these families had successful 30-year loans, but they were lured by the promises of deceptive marketing and then financially devastated when they were placed in egregious loan products.

CRL is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that works to protect homeownership and family wealth by fighting predatory lending practices. Our focus is on consumer lending: primarily mortgages, payday loans, credit cards, bank overdrafts and auto loans.

Position Description:

Attorney/Policy Associate sought to be part of the Center's Responsible Lending policy advocacy team. The position will focus on policy analysis in the housing area and other consumer lending issues such as student loans and debt collection practices, and craft policies to prevent unfair practices in order to advance the Center's mission of promoting responsible lending. It will also include writing and outreach to officials that advances strategies to achieve the Center's legislative and regulatory agenda at primarily the federal level. Responsibilities will include research and writing on legal issues and major policy reports, comment letters, regulatory proposals, and testimony, speeches or articles. This person will share responsibility with a team of policy counsels for general legal work and outreach on our issues. Some out-of-state travel is required.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Study proposed legislation to determine possible effect on CRL's interests.
- Monitor legislative and policy developments; identify and assist in developing strategy to advance legislative and regulatory agendas.
- Provide significant technical assistance in drafting legislation; engage in legal research and assist in developing policy recommendations.
- Write or review testimony, speeches, articles, and policy briefs.
- Review and advise on coalition sign on letters.
- Build relationships with other organizations, trade groups and companies with an interest in lending policy; perform outreach to congressional staff, regulators and allies. In concert with other teams and issue groups, encourage allies to support CRL positions and join with us to defend or defeat legislative and regulatory proposals.
- Participate on teams focused on advancing legislative and regulatory agendas at the state and federal level.
- Represent CRL in public domain at meetings and conferences.

- Help identify media opportunities and draft informational materials and conduct news conferences in order to state CRL's views and to inform public of features of proposed legislation considered desirable or undesirable.
- May testify at public hearings to enlist support for CRL's interests.

Minimum Qualifications:

- J.D. or Master in Public Policy or commensurate degree
- At least three (3-5) years of experience
- Direct experience in government or in nongovernmental organizations working to influence policy
- Demonstrate Self-Help's/CRL's corporate competencies:
 - Mission and Values
 - Standards of Excellence
 - Teamwork and Collaboration
 - Initiative and Follow-Through
 - Customer Focus
 - Excellent communication and demonstrated writing skills
- Experience and skill at building relationships with external partners and cultivating collaboration
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law
- Ability to work well as part of a team and with a diverse group of people and settings
- Self-starter, able to initiate and juggle multiple projects and work independently
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint
- Ability to travel as needed

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience in civil rights, housing/mortgage lending, predatory lending, consumer law, or banking law

Physical Requirements:

Frequently requires use of manual dexterity and repetitive motions, primarily with the wrists, hands, and/or fingers. Must be able to occasionally lift and exert force of up to 10 pounds.

Compensation:

Competitive nonprofit salary, based on experience, plus a generous benefits package.

Application:

To apply, send resume and cover letter, describing why you are a fit for this position, to hiringmanager@self-help.org. Please include the position title as the subject. The position will remain posted until filled.

Self-Help is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, class, age, religion, disability that can be accommodated, marital status, ancestry, nationality, family status or sexual orientation.