

## **Summer Opportunity in Public Interest Appellate Litigation**

Gupta Wessler PLLC—a private public interest law firm based in Washington, DC, specializing in Supreme Court, appellate, and constitutional litigation—is looking for a small number of highly qualified law students to assist with cutting-edge litigation projects during the summer. We seek top students with exceptional writing ability, the capacity to think creatively about the law, and a real passion for advocacy in the public interest. We will consider applications from 1Ls but prefer 2Ls and students seeking a position between graduation and the start of a judicial clerkship.

Our summer associates are given an unparalleled opportunity to take responsibility for challenging legal research and writing projects that directly contribute to advocacy at the highest levels. They work on briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts on issues of first impression, analyze important law and policy issues, and work with lawyers on a range of substantive matters. We vow never to occupy our students with the busywork assignments typical of large firms. We strive to ensure that each student leaves the firm with high-quality writing samples for use in applications for judicial clerkships, public-interest fellowships, and other competitive positions. To the extent possible, we expose students to strategy sessions, client meetings, moot courts, and oral arguments.

The firm is currently accepting applications for 2016. We are committed to considering applicants from all schools and backgrounds, and actively seek applications from women and underrepresented groups.

### **How to Apply**

Interested students should email a cover letter, resume, transcript, a list of three references, and at least one writing sample to [recruiting@guptawessler.com](mailto:recruiting@guptawessler.com). We prefer writing samples that reflect a candidate's most challenging and ambitious legal work so far, not cookie-cutter assignments for legal writing courses. Scholarly papers are acceptable, but we'd also like to see at least one in-depth advocacy piece or memorandum. We want to see whole documents rather than excerpts. Samples that have been edited or commented upon by others are perfectly fine so long as that fact is noted. We welcome multiple samples, including non-legal pieces that reveal a candidate's general analytical and writing ability. Please direct cover letters and any inquiries to our office manager, Ian Engdahl.

### **About the Firm**

Gupta Wessler PLLC is the only firm of its kind in the nation—a private law firm, unaffiliated with any particular advocacy group, specializing in the representation of plaintiffs and other public-interest clients in Supreme Court and appellate litigation. Our cases cover a very broad range of issues, including consumers' and workers' rights, class actions, the First Amendment, civil rights, environmental law, international law, and antitrust. In these and other areas, we work closely with leading scholars, policy experts, non-profit organizations, and other law firms to help shape the law in ways that enhance justice and improve people's lives.

#### **Gupta Wessler PLLC**

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## Past Summer Associate Experiences at Gupta Wessler

“ I would highly recommend spending a summer working with the lawyers at Gupta Wessler. Their promise not to give their summer associates busywork is a real one—I had two main assignments over the course of the summer, both of which were challenging and engaging. During the first half of the summer, I helped draft sections of a brief in the Second Circuit for a fascinating, long-running international environmental dispute. After that, I drafted a brief in opposition to cert in the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving the Fair Credit Reporting Act and Article III standing. Along the way, I also got to weigh in on briefs in the firm’s other matters as they were being written and filed. Throughout these assignments, the lawyers at Gupta Wessler were dedicated to helping me improve, not only in my understanding of the subject matter but also in my understanding of the craft of legal writing. They also integrated me into conversations about the firm’s work on new and ongoing cases, and discussions about the public interest litigation community more broadly. It was an excellent summer—the kind of work and environment that make you excited to one day be a lawyer.”

- **Danny Townsend** worked at Gupta Wessler following his second year at Yale Law School. After graduation, he will clerk for Judge Marsha Berzon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Danny previously worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, The American Prospect, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and Justice Carlos Moreno of the Supreme Court of California. He is also vice president of Yale’s American Constitution Society chapter.

“ Over the course of the summer, I worked on a number of interesting projects—a Ninth Circuit brief on whether federal transportation law preempts California’s wage and hour protections; a Second Circuit brief on the scope of individual employer liability under the Fair Labor Standards Act; and a successful Supreme Court cert petition on novel constitutional issues raised by a restrictive state freedom of information law. I also helped advise a public health organization on the potential for federal preemption of local initiatives. Every project gave me the unique opportunity to work on difficult, cutting edge legal issues that could have a significant impact on worker’s rights, consumer protection, and individual liberties. I enjoyed working closely with the firm’s attorneys on every aspect of the cases, and learned a lot about how to analyze complex legal issues, how to structure a piece of writing, and how to approach the strategic decisions that go into every stage of public interest litigation.”

- **Tara Stearns** worked at Gupta Wessler between her graduation from law school and her clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. During law school, Tara worked at Altshuler Berzon LLP, the Office of EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and AARP. She also co-founded Georgetown’s Consumer Law Society and was a student attorney at the Institute for Public Representation. Following her clerkship, Tara joined the Office of the Solicitor at the U.S. Department of Labor.

“ I contributed to [a] case throughout its evolution, from preparing portions of an early memorandum conceptualizing First Amendment and vagueness challenges to the law, to participating in strategy sessions with trial counsel, to drafting a brief in support of a motion for a preliminary injunction against New York’s anti-surchage law. I had never before had the opportunity to watch the development of a case from the initial brainstorming to oral arguments. The experience provided insights into the theoretical and practical questions involved in public interest litigation. I also gained experience with appellate litigation by drafting the opening brief in an appeal before the Fourth Circuit involving the interpretation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. I enjoyed the challenge of drafting the brief for this case from scratch, and learned from seeing how my draft was edited and revised by experienced appellate advocates. The firm’s small size gave me a unique opportunity to learn from experienced lawyers and to cultivate my legal research and writing skills.”

- **Randall Smith** worked at Gupta Wessler between his graduation from law school and his clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his LL.M. from the University of Cambridge, and previously earned an M.A. in English from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Princeton University. Randall is currently completing a clerkship on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.

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