Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section

The Office of the County Counsel’s Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section (“Impact Section”) litigates high-impact cases, drafts innovative local ordinances, and develops new policies and programs to advance the County’s goal of achieving social and economic justice for all its residents and to promote local, state, and national public policy reform. Impact Section attorneys also provide a broad range of legal advice to County agencies and defend the County in select cases implicating the County’s ability to provide critical safety-net services.

The Impact Section’s current cases include one of the nation’s first lawsuits to hold drug companies accountable for their role in creating the opioid epidemic; continuing litigation in the County’s longstanding lawsuit against former lead paint companies, through which the County obtained a judgment for hundreds of millions of dollars to abate lead paint in low-income communities throughout California; several lawsuits challenging actions by the Trump Administration, including challenges through which the County successfully blocked the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the President’s Executive Order defunding sanctuary jurisdictions; several efforts, including litigation, to protect the accuracy and integrity of the 2020 census; and several other cases that aim to address corporate misconduct, protect environmental and public health, and safeguard the County’s most vulnerable populations. Descriptions of these and other high-profile cases litigated by the Impact Section can be found at www.sccgov.org/ImpactOverview.

The Impact Section also has an active amicus practice, and has recently authored amicus briefs in cases challenging the federal government’s efforts to withhold grant funding from sanctuary jurisdictions, defending the rights of LGBTQ people, preserving access to contraception, opposing litigation aimed at invalidating the Affordable Care Act, and protecting voting rights. In addition, the Impact Section works on a range of policy initiatives related to issues such as pay equity, bail reform, LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, public health, homelessness, and environmental health. The Impact Section also has a partnership with Stanford Law School through which students and faculty collaborate with Impact Section attorneys to develop policy and other initiatives.

Additional information about the Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section is available at www.sccgov.org/ImpactSection.
**2020-2022 Fellowship Position**

In 2008, the Office established a fellowship program that selects talented new lawyers and trains them as local government litigators and advisors equipped to advance social and economic justice in the County and beyond. The 2020-2022 Impact Fellow will contribute to a growing movement to use the power and perspective of local government to drive long-lasting social change. As an integral part of the Impact Section, the Impact Fellow will conduct legal research and analysis; draft memos, ordinances, and resolutions; participate in ongoing litigation and amicus efforts; draft public comments on proposed federal regulations; and help identify and develop new cases and projects. The Fellow will also gain exposure to a broad array of local government practice areas though projects and assignments with other sections of the Office, such as the health and hospital, public safety and justice, code enforcement, and general government sections. These projects may involve researching and drafting memoranda for the Board of Supervisors, providing legal advice to County agencies, and assisting with other litigation matters. Special attention is paid to the professional development of the Impact Fellow and to fostering a lifelong commitment to public service with a focus on local governance.

The two-year position is open to recent law school graduates, judicial law clerks, and current third-year law students (J.D. expected in spring 2020) and begins in **September 2020**. For members of the California Bar, the starting salary is $114,420 - $176,725 per year, depending on experience. A list of current and past fellows is available at [www.sccgov.org/ImpactFellows](http://www.sccgov.org/ImpactFellows).

**Application Process and Deadline**

To apply, please send a resume, cover letter describing your experience and interest in working through local government to advance the public interest, legal writing sample, list of three references, and unofficial law school transcript to our Fellowship Hiring Committee at fellowship@cco.sccgov.org. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, August 16, 2019**. The Office expects to complete the hiring process in September or October 2019.