



April 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CENTER FOR LEGAL INNOVATION

Overview: Reporting to Founder and Chairman Kenneth L. Marcus and Senior Vice President for Legal Advocacy, Richard Rosen, this role requires a person who unequivocally supports the critical mission of The Louis D. Brandeis Center. This is a leadership position for someone who wants the challenge of building The Center for Legal Innovation (“the Center”) including assembling a team, working with other lawyers and organizations, and engaging in complex legal matters. This position is about driving change to the betterment of LDB’s core mission.

Organization: The Louis D. Brandeis Center has launched a new public interest legal group, The Center for Legal Innovation, to develop novel theories of legal advocacy against schools, companies, unions, and other organizations and parties to combat the resurgence of anti-Semitism. In launching this group, the Brandeis Center seeks to “simultaneously raise our game in public policy while also pursuing an ambitious docket of lawsuits in state and federal courts.”

Experience: 20+ years of litigation experience gained at premier law firms or government positions with demonstrated academic achievement. First-chair trial experience leading complex federal litigation, aptitude for strategic thinking, managerial experience leading a team of lawyers, and execution of litigation strategy is required.

Location: New York, NY.

In Office Work: In-office approximately 4 days a week.

Compensation: Aligned with other non-profits and commensurate with experience, the package includes cash compensation and a benefits package.

Process

Interested candidates should submit a resume addressed to:

Sheri Michaels
Partner
In-House Counsel Recruiting
smichaels@mlaglobal.com

Nancy Reiner
Partner
In-House Counsel Recruiting
nreiner@mlaglobal.com

Emily Schwerdlin
Lead Search Coordinator
In-House Counsel Recruiting
eschwerdlin@mlaglobal.com

You may be required to complete additional documents to be considered for this position. Please do not contact the Organization directly; all resumes sent to the Organization will be routed to MLA for handling and will create delays.

Company Overview

The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (LDB) is a non-profit organization founded by Kenneth L. Marcus in 2012 to advance the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and promote justice for all. LDB engages in research, education, and legal advocacy to combat the resurgence of anti-Semitism on college and university campuses, in the workplace, and elsewhere. Among other things, LDB empowers students by training them to understand their legal rights and educates administrators and employers on best practices to combat racism and anti-Semitism.

This new public interest litigation group, The Center for Legal Innovation (“the Center”) represents a new litigation initiative that focuses on combatting anti-Semitism across the nation and against those who would support terrorism inside this country. The Center will use the law to combat all forms of anti-Semitism, such as anti-Semitism that occurs in academia, the workplace, housing, healthcare, public accommodations, government services, unions, and corporations. Specifically, on campus, the Center will work with university faculty and students to investigate incidents, work with administration on procedures and protocols, and file legal complaints when necessary. The Center’s goal is to change the culture on campuses so that anti-Semitism is taken as seriously as other forms of hate and discrimination while also maintaining academic freedom and freedom of speech. In the workplace, LDB looks to educate companies and individuals and conduct proactive litigation. The Center will operate out of the Brandeis Center’s newly opened New York office. The Washington, D.C. based Brandeis Center also recently opened a satellite office in Los Angeles.

Position Overview

- The Executive Director must stand for the mission and understand the mission to fully support the litigation strategy of the LDB Center.
- The Executive Director is responsible for all day-to-day litigation activities and cases, as well as providing high level strategic advice and counsel to LDB.
- The Executive Director will work strategically within the organization to shape, manage, and direct litigation within the Center for Legal Innovation (“litigation team”) and coordinate with LDB leadership on a wide range of issues that impact the legal team.
- The Executive Director will oversee the litigation team --- to effectively and efficiently lead all of the organization’s high-impact litigation, direct representation, public education, and legal advocacy --- and will actively work to promote an inclusive workplace.
- The Executive Director must be a strategic thinker and will have responsibility for leading the LDB’s impact litigation strategy and related advocacy. This will include responsibility for setting and driving litigation strategy and managing the LDB’s litigation docket, litigation metrics, and investigative matters.
- The Executive Director will be “the face” of LDB and The Center for Legal Innovation outside of the organization. This role will have direct engagement with the media, will be an important participant in fund raising activities, and will be called upon to present at conferences and seminars in support of LDB’s mission.
- The Executive Director will build and develop strong relationships with Jewish leadership, across organizations, universities, and elsewhere, to create connectivity with people experiencing anti-Semitism.

Key Responsibilities

In a broad sense, the Executive Director will:

- Provide strategic advice and counsel to senior leadership on a variety of issues that arise.
- Direct and supervise the Center's litigation team.
- Manage the litigation activities of the legal team, with the ability to roll-up-one's-sleeves and provide direction to and oversight of the strategic direction of LDB.
- Build strategic partnerships and relationships with internal senior leadership and LDB staff as well as outside partners, consultants, other organizations, stakeholders, outside national law firms, lobbyists, law fellows, and interns to further organizational objectives.

Organizational Leadership:

- Keep the organization's vision and values at the forefront of decision making and action.
- Anticipate future legal and organizational issues, sharing such pertinent information with senior leadership, as well as with other relevant stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the Communications and Development Officer on relationships with major donors and grant requests.
- Develop and oversee any needed structural changes in the legal team, including new areas of focus, new projects and strategies, policy work, and the size and locations of legal staff.
- Create an entrepreneurial environment.

Leadership of The Litigation Team:

- Provide strategic advice, counsel, and legal guidance to ensure the litigation team provides the highest quality legal representation in support of and consistent with the organization's mission, strategic framework, and values.
- Guide and collaborate with the legal team's leadership in the strategic management of the litigation.
- Provide ongoing advice and counsel to the leadership team and other legal staff on issues that arise during ongoing cases and legislative and media advocacy and on the development of new cases, initiatives, and advocacy.
- Manage the organization's litigation docket and investigative matters, working collaboratively and strategically with outside partners, pro bono counsel, national law firms, internal legal teams and practice groups, and other LDB staff to evaluate litigation cases and create and implement litigation strategies.
- Foster a diverse workplace that enables all participants to contribute to their full potential in pursuit of organizational objectives.

Qualifications

Key qualifications of the Executive Director will include:

- A strong, demonstrated interest in LDB's work and its mission.
- J.D. from a leading national law school, with demonstrated academic achievement, preferably with federal judicial clerkship experience, and admission to any state bar in the United States.

- A minimum of 20+ years of experience handling a broad range of large, complex federal litigation, including 1st chair litigation experience.
- Highly strategic mindset and approach to litigation, looking for creative solutions and opportunities and anticipating future cases, advocacy, and practice areas.
- Demonstrated organizational and business acumen, strong analytical skills, and the ability to grasp important legal and strategic issues facing the organization.
- Leadership and managerial experience stewarding a successful legal team.

Interpersonal Competencies & Success Factors

- Superior intellect, with the ability to think critically, strategically, and creatively to find solutions to complex legal issues while balancing organizational priorities.
- A practical problem solver with strong organizational skills and business acumen.
- Someone with the ability to see the big picture in determining and driving litigation strategy consistent with and in support of LDB's mission, vision, and values.
- Supports open intellectual discussion and debate on a presented course of action and the ability to be flexible on approach to achieve goals.
- Must be a relationship builder, a consensus builder, a team member, consultative, and think holistically about courses of action.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively as a strong team player (a roll up the sleeves attitude is required), while empowering others and emphasizing accountability.
- High sense of urgency and commitment to execution.
- Ability to be viewed as a trusted, accessible advisor.