Research Assistant: Corporate Liability and Sustainability Disclosure

Companies around the world are responding to investor pressure for greater transparency by publicly releasing certain environmental, social, or governance (ESG) information. But what risks might these disclosures (or failures to disclose) incur? In 2012, ExxonMobil faced legal action from shareholders for not disclosing business risks related to climate change. A separate case is pending against Samsung for failure to implement company’s publicly stated “zero-tolerance policy” against child labor. The Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance intends to launch several research projects to further examine these questions as a follow up to a recently published paper in Berkeley Ecological Law Quarterly.

We seek a law student to contribute to the Initiative’s research related to corporate liability and ESG disclosure. The student will provide background work and co-author a research paper.

The work will include:

- Research and analysis of existing case law in the United States.
- Interviews with lawyers and scholars with specialized knowledge in this field
- Co-writing one or more papers for publication in academic journals to disseminate the research results.

Requirements: Applicants should have excellent writing and research skills, a legal background, and an interest in corporate sustainability. The essential requirement of this role is the ability to excel in relative autonomy combined with the ability to produce academically rigorous work.

Pay will be at established Yale rates, commensurate with experience.

This position will require about 10 hours per week; hours are generally flexible.

To apply, please submit a resume and short statement of interest to diane.strauss@yale.edu

The Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance is a joint Initiative between the Center for Business and the Environment and the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. Recognizing the critical role that private capital flows will play in moving society toward a more sustainable future, financial institutions are now working to move mainstream capital toward a low-carbon economy. Yet investors face critical barriers in assessing the financial risks and societal impact arising from this fundamental shift. The Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance (YISF) seeks to design the next generation of sustainability metrics able to inform investment-decisions and drive private capital towards financially sound but environmentally resilient endeavors.

For more information about the Initiative, visit https://cbey.yale.edu/yisf