



Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

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Spring or fall semester externships

About us

PEER is a national nonprofit that fills the unique niche of serving the public employees who protect our environment. We work with government agency employees to address environmental wrongs while protecting their identities, and we also provide free legal help for those who suffer retaliation from their supervisors after blowing the whistle themselves. We advocate for strong scientific integrity policies and procedures, and have an array of ongoing policy and public education campaigns. PEER is headquartered in the Washington DC metro area (Silver Spring, MD is on the Metro's Red Line, a few stops from downtown), with several field offices across the country.

The externship

Does your law school offer the opportunity to earn credit for a semester of real life, practical experience? As an extern at PEER's headquarters, you will assist our Senior Counsel, Executive Director, Staff Attorney, and Field Directors in litigation, working on tasks that could range from complaint drafting to discovery to settlement negotiations or even trial prep. Our cases often involve federal legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. Externs will conduct initial intake interviews with public employees who contact PEER, and they will conduct legal research to explore any potential environmental law and ethics violations that these callers raise.

PEER believes externs should gain valuable experience, enhancing their résumé while preparing them for their future careers as attorneys. We strive to provide each extern with appropriate supervision and input, a variety of skill-building tasks, and significant research and writing projects. Externships must be at least 24 hours per week.

Applying

You should be in your 2L year, with proven interest in environmental and/or employment law and top-notch research, writing, and communication skills. Appreciation of the Oxford comma a plus!

We accept applications on a rolling basis. To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and any other materials you wish to include to Kevin Bell, Staff Counsel, at kbell@peer.org, with the subject line "Externship Application" and indicate whether spring or fall, and the relevant year. If you choose to submit a writing sample excerpted excerpt from a longer

work, please include a writing sample cover sheet with a brief paragraph orienting the reader to your analysis.