



Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

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Post-Grad Legal Fellowship

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 fellowship

Legal fellows are recent law school grads; PEER is their launching pad. The flexible 3-12 month fellowship lets fellows develop real-world skills in an atmosphere of ample supervision and input, with substantial research and writing tasks. Fellows typically work 30-35 hours a week, leaving time for job hunting and interviewing. The position is unpaid; fellows typically volunteer or get funding through their law school.

Legal fellows work at PEER's headquarters to assist our Senior Counsel, Executive Director, Staff Attorney, and Field Directors. 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. Fellows will draft portions of legal filings, and may participate in various stages of litigation ranging from complaint drafting to discovery to settlement negotiations or even trial prep. Fellows will conduct initial intake interviews with public employees who contact PEER, and they will explore any potential environmental law and ethics violations that these callers raise.

Applying

We accept applications on a rolling basis. We require a JD, proven interest in environmental and/or employment law, and top-notch research, writing, and communication skills. Appreciation of the Oxford comma a plus!

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, unofficial transcript, and **5 page** legal writing sample to Kevin Bell, Staff Counsel, at kbell@peer.org, with the subject line "Post-Grad Legal Fellow Application." If you choose to submit an excerpt from a longer work, please include a writing sample cover sheet with a brief paragraph orienting the reader to your analysis.