

PennFuture Legal Internship Spring 2022 (Part-Time, Spring Semester)



PennFuture's mission is to lead the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania and beyond. We protect our air, water, and land, and empower citizens to build sustainable communities for future generations.

INTRODUCTION:

PennFuture is Pennsylvania's premier environmental advocacy organization and was one of the first to employ a full-time litigation staff to address the state's significant pollution challenges. Whether it's halting the fossil fuel buildout, cleaning up streams and rivers, or protecting communities from industrial pollution, PennFuture's team of attorneys, advocates, experts, and organizers don't shy away from engaging on the Commonwealth's biggest environmental issues.

A legal internship with PennFuture offers a unique opportunity to gain experience across a wide range of legal skills: making a difference at the grassroots and programmatic levels through advocacy; watchdogging government decisions to ensure effective public participation and compliance with the law; and protecting the environment through litigation. Areas of focus include protection of Pennsylvania's air, water, and climate. PennFuture's diverse team enables a legal intern to be a crucial asset to our efforts, as well as provide the opportunity to work directly with experienced attorneys. We look forward to welcoming a legal intern onto our team and to the contributions they will make to our mission.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE:

PennFuture knows that in order to achieve our mission, we need to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have equitable access to clean air, clean water, a stable climate, and a clean and sustainable economy. We are committed to ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in our organizational culture, policies, practices, and programs. Like the environmental and conservation movement writ large, we have historically fallen short in our efforts to build a truly equitable Pennsylvania. Our vision is to center equity and justice in everything we do as well as to combat systems of oppression and injustices that have long harmed Pennsylvania's environmental justice communities.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Legal Interns work under the direct supervision of attorneys in the development and execution of litigation and other legal advocacy. Legal Interns will participate in a wide range of tasks, including but not limited to:

- Researching and writing legal memoranda and other documents on a variety of federal, regional, state, and/or local environmental issues
- Researching and assisting with drafting comments on local, state, and/or federal agency rules, policies, guidance documents, and permits
- Assisting in providing legal counsel to and representation of PennFuture as well as potential clients outside of PennFuture on a wide range of environmental issues
- As applicable, assisting in case investigation, legal research, and discovery, and preparing memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents for administrative and judicial proceedings
- Joining attorneys and program staff in meetings, hearings, and other events, both within PennFuture and with external agencies, organizations, or persons

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS:

- Currently enrolled in law school
- Strong commitment to PennFuture’s mission and demonstrated commitment to advancing environmental protection with vision and results
- Commitment to the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice and employing that in all their work
- Demonstrated commitment to environmental protection and/or environmental justice
- Excellent writing, research, and analytical skills
- Strong work ethic
- Initiative, creative thinking, and the ability to work collegially with others
- Knowledge of environmental and administrative law and/or science or environmental policy is a plus

LOCATION, SALARY, AND BENEFITS:

For spring 2022, PennFuture has up to two internships available. These positions may be virtual and/or located in our Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, or Mt. Pocono offices.

Legal Interns are expected to commit to 10-15 hours per week over the course of the spring semester (roughly January through April) and will be paid a rate of \$20 per hour. Because this position is part-time, benefits are not included.

PennFuture requires proof of vaccination against Covid-19 as a condition of employment but, in some circumstances, we may provide an exemption based on a medical condition that precludes vaccination or because of a deeply held religious conviction.

PennFuture encourages applications from individuals underrepresented in the environmental community, including people of color and persons with nontraditional work and educational experience. All applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, marital status, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

The deadline to apply for this position is Friday, October 29, 2021.

Interested applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, transcript, and brief writing sample to: Pf-lawstaff@pennfuture.org. Please include the subject line “2022 Spring Internship Application.”