

# Staff Attorney

Reports to: Vice President of Legal & Policy



**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 one of the first statewide environmental organizations in Pennsylvania to employ a full-time legal staff to fulfill its mission. Entering its third decade as a force for environmental protection, PennFuture has four offices across the state. PennFuture prides itself on employing some of the brightest, most determined and committed environmental lawyers. With legal tactics at the organization's core, PennFuture lawyers are given substantial responsibility and independence to shape legal strategies that achieve outcomes and address priorities. The position offers a unique opportunity to use advocacy, regulatory, watchdog, and litigation skills to advance case law, shape and defend environmental policy, ensure environmental laws are enforced accordingly, and, ultimately, protect the environment.

This Staff Attorney position will work on a variety of environmental issues with a prioritization of clean water legal activities throughout the state, but with specific focus on the Delaware River, Susquehanna River, Ohio River, and Erie watersheds. Through campaigns, coalitions, and other tactics, PennFuture is working aggressively to reduce water pollution in these watersheds from major industrial and stormwater pollution and also eliminate threats from increased energy and petrochemical production. As such, PennFuture seeks a qualified attorney to lead these efforts, engage with coalition members, and take on important cases that could impact hundreds of thousands of people.

In particular, the Staff Attorney:

- Researches, develops, and implements litigation in state and federal courts and before administrative tribunals on a wide range of environmental and related issues, including discovery, pre-trial motions, trials, and appellate work.
- Researches and prepares comments on local, state, and/or federal agency rules, policies, guidance documents, and permits, and engages with agencies on a variety of issues.
- Assists with development and coordination of enforcement and legal advocacy actions in collaboration with other PennFuture staff, environmental organizations, and coalitions, as appropriate.
- Provides legal counsel to and represents PennFuture as well as potential clients outside of PennFuture on a wide range of environmental issues.
- Provides internal support and leadership in the area of environmental law, particularly with respect to water quality issues.
- Assists with PennFuture's other advocacy, fundraising, and communications efforts with substantive expertise and legal input.
- Functions as an expert in PennFuture's legal program, including, as appropriate, interfacing with the media and decisionmakers on issues PennFuture is engaged in.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

- 3 to 6 years of experience in environmental or administrative law. Pennsylvania practice preferred.
- Admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, eligible for admission upon motion, or eligible to sit for the next administration of the Pennsylvania bar examination, if necessary.
- Strong commitment to PennFuture's mission and demonstrated commitment to advancing environmental protection with vision and results.
- General familiarity with non-profit environmental organizations.
- Entrepreneurial character with a proven ability to identify new opportunities to achieve objectives that meet PennFuture's strategic goals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, and proven ability to work collaboratively with diverse staff, clients, and communities.
- Proven ability to partner with other organizations to achieve objectives and to maintain long-term relationships with clients and partner organizations.
- Ability to maintain a flexible work schedule, be willing to work some evenings and/or weekends, and occasionally travel, as needed.
- Training and/or experience with environmental policy preferred. Experience with environmental advocacy, public speaking, and media preferred.

**OTHER:**

This position is based out of PennFuture's Harrisburg office, although candidates interested in PennFuture's Philadelphia office may be considered.

This is a full-time, exempt position. Competitive salary based on experience. Benefits package includes health care, dental, vision, paid vacation, paid sick leave, paid holidays, and a 403(b)-retirement plan.

PennFuture is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from individuals underrepresented in the environmental community, including people of color, and persons with non-traditional work and educational experience. All who believe they meet the state qualifications are invited to apply.

**SUBMISSION:**

The deadline to apply for this position is Friday, August 21, 2020.

Please submit your cover letter, resume, short writing sample, and contact information for three professional references to [jones@pennfuture.org](mailto:jones@pennfuture.org) with the subject line STAFF ATTORNEY. Phone calls will not be accepted.