



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**POSITION TITLE:** Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer

**PROGRAM:** Climate & Energy

**SUPERVISOR:** Program Director, Climate & Energy

**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

**SALARY:** D.o.E.

### **SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. CIEL's Climate and Energy (C&E) program works at the nexus of overlapping and converging movements that seek to: hold corporations and governments accountable for climate change; stop or slow the expansion of oil and gas extraction and infrastructure buildout; strengthen a human rights-based approach to climate action, and protect people and the planet from the impacts of plastic, petrochemicals, and fossil fuels. In each, CIEL plays a critical role as a strategic partner and connector, innovating and adapting legal strategies across movements, and drawing on legal efforts in the international arena to bolster environmental justice campaigns in the US.

CIEL seeks a Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer to support its work halting the petrochemical infrastructure buildout that threatens the global climate and the health of communities across the US Gulf Coast and Appalachia region. The Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer will connect and equip frontline environmental justice communities with advocacy tools and resources needed to effectively challenge the development and operation of petrochemical infrastructure in their jurisdictions and increase corporate accountability. These efforts will highlight the links between fossil fuels and plastic, expose producers' early awareness of plastic risks, and help amplify the power of currently disparate movements working to confront the toxic impacts of plastic throughout its lifecycle (wellhead, refining, production, consumption, and waste management). In collaboration and coordination with movement partners, the Climate and Energy Team and other CIEL staff, the Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer will develop new legal strategies, tools, and analyses to support critical site fights, campaigns for systemic change in the fossil-petrochemical economy, and the broader global movement to stop plastics and petrochemical expansion.

To perform this role, the Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer will have experience developing and leading high-impact advocacy campaigns that support frontline communities. The Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer will also have impeccable research and writing skills in English, and a demonstrated commitment to environmental justice and human rights. *Note that CIEL does not sponsor visas of any kind. You must have authorization to work in the United States in order to be considered for this position.*

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Develop and implement innovative legal and advocacy strategies together with movement partners to confront the petrochemical buildout and hold those most responsible for its environmental, health, and climate change impacts accountable by:
  - a. Building cross-cutting partnerships and diverse coalitions with frontline environmental justice communities in the US Gulf Coast and Appalachia region, and the lawyers supporting those communities, to identify, define, and advance community support needs and shared campaign goals and objectives;
  - b. Researching and drafting legal analysis, amicus briefs, and other relevant legal strategy documents, tools, and publications in support of partners' litigation and other advocacy efforts;
  - c. Researching and drafting briefing documents, written comments, and publication-ready materials for a variety of audiences, including investors, financial institutions, and movement partners.
  - d. Maintaining a working knowledge of relevant legal and regulatory frameworks and issue areas;
  - e. Assisting in the design and implementation of strategies to inform, engage, and mobilize target constituencies in support of campaign goals;
  - f. Organizing, coordinating, and participating in meetings and events to support program goals;
  - g. Assisting CIEL's communications team and other staff to create press releases, online content, campaign materials, webinars, and other outward-facing engagement opportunities;
  - h. Maintaining effective working relationships with relevant partner organizations, communities, intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders; and

- i. Representing CIEL in coalitions, public meetings, workshops, and other processes.
2. Assist in information flow within the program and between CIEL programs;
3. Perform other job-related duties as requested or assigned by the Program Director.

Administration:

1. Assist program team and other staff responsible for grant-writing and reporting by sharing information on program activities, deliverables and expenditures, as needed;
2. Maintain timesheets contemporaneously and submit them on time;
3. Participate in weekly staff and team meetings and other organizational activities, including an annual staff performance evaluation.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Minimum Qualifications:

1. JD or equivalent law degree;
2. Admitted to the District of Columbia Bar or eligible to apply for admission within one year
3. 4-7 years of experience in designing and leading effective advocacy campaigns in an environmental, climate and/or international policy context;
4. Demonstrated commitment to environmental justice, human rights, and/or climate change;
5. Superior legal analytical, writing, and communication skills and a demonstrated ability to write clearly and compellingly for a variety of audiences, including policymakers and the general public;
6. Demonstrated experience working with a diverse range of people and groups, including coalitions;
7. Demonstrated experience and comfort with public speaking in an array of formats and contexts;
8. Strong organizational skills and ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously;
9. Ability to work both independently and in close coordination with a team, take initiative, exercise good judgment, and follow through;
10. Authorization to work in the US;
11. Ability to travel periodically and for extended periods;
12. Fluency in the English language.

Additional Preferred Qualifications:

1. Knowledge of human rights law, environmental law, finance, or other relevant area
2. Experience working with or living in affected communities engaged in environmental justice, corporate accountability and/or public policy campaigns;
3. Personal or professional connections in the US Gulf Coast and/or Appalachia region;
4. Experience with a variety of communication tools and technologies, including developing talking points, social media, and blogging;
5. Experience working with press and doing media interviews;
6. Sense of humor and ability to operate well in a relaxed, collaborative, and informal work environment;
7. Proficiency in one or more additional languages.

This is a full-time, exempt position based in Washington, DC that reports to the Climate & Energy Program Director. In light of the current health crisis, we will support this new team member in working remotely until we can all work together in our DC office again. Salary is commensurate with experience and competitive with similar non-profit positions. CIEL offers an excellent benefits package, including employer-paid medical, dental, vision, and a 403(b) retirement savings plan with employer match.

To apply, please send a cover letter, résumé, and a relevant writing sample in a single PDF via email to [jobs@ciel.org](mailto:jobs@ciel.org) with the title “Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer: Your Name.” The position will remain open until filled. Desired start date is as soon as possible. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls, please.

**About CIEL:** For 30 years, CIEL has used the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. CIEL’s dynamic team of international attorneys and experts work together in a collaborative and supportive work environment to tackle some of the most interesting and challenging issues facing people and the planet. CIEL is actively committed to the principles of multiculturalism, equal employment opportunity, and to building an organization that is as diverse as the communities we serve around the world. CIEL encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, religion, disability, or veteran status.