



Job Announcement: Staff Attorney

Organizational Overview: Columbia Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper) is a successful nonprofit organization that unites communities to fight for clean water and our climate. Riverkeeper advances high-profile campaigns to recover healthy salmon populations and protect the Columbia River from fossil fuels, toxic pollution, the Hanford Nuclear Site, and other threats facing Columbia communities and salmon habitat. Our work is featured in national media, including CNN, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Los Angeles Times.

Across our campaigns, we promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in environmental decisions and our own actions. This includes working in solidarity with Tribal Nations to achieve common goals. [Our team](#) includes community organizers, scientists, communications specialists, and attorneys. To learn more about our commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, [click here](#).

Location: Portland or Hood River, Oregon. Depending on experience and qualifications, it may be possible to work remotely in Oregon or Washington, but periodic travel to Portland or Hood River would be necessary. Work is currently remote due to the pandemic, with the option to work from the office if preferred.

Status: Full-time employee; FLSA Exempt Position (salaried).

Position Description: The Staff Attorney is responsible for working with Riverkeeper's team of community organizers, communications specialists, and attorneys to develop and execute campaigns, including representing Riverkeeper in litigation, administrative proceedings, rulemaking committees, and state legislatures. The Staff Attorney's work plan focuses on campaigns to protect the Columbia from high-impact energy infrastructure, including nuclear reactors and fracked gas power plants and pipelines, and other fossil fuel infrastructure. The position is designed for an attorney with at least three years of litigation or staff attorney experience who is excited to apply their legal skills to engage in both policy initiatives and litigation. Preference will be given to candidates who have experience working with Tribal Nations, in public interest environmental and land use litigation, or a demonstrated commitment to environmental justice. The position requires occasional evening and weekend work and travel.

Responsibilities:

- Develop and Execute Legal and Policy Strategies to Advance Campaigns: The Staff Attorney will work with Riverkeeper's staff to develop and execute campaigns to

protect the Columbia River. This will include drafting correspondence to, and meeting with, agency and elected officials. The Staff Attorney will draft public comments, develop legal strategies to advance rulemaking and legislation, and may participate in rulemaking committees or other government committees.

- Litigate: The Staff Attorney will represent Riverkeeper in litigation. This may include researching and drafting memoranda, pleadings, motions, and briefs, as well as representing Riverkeeper in court.
- Communicate Legal and Policy Work to Members and Public: The Staff Attorney will communicate Riverkeeper's legal and policy work to the media and members by participating in media interviews and helping to draft or review press releases, op eds, newsletter articles, emails, fact sheets, issue papers, website posts, and social media.
- Communicate with Tribal Agency Staff and Attorneys: The Staff Attorney will maintain regular communications with attorneys and agency staff at Columbia River Tribes on ongoing campaign matters of interest to Tribes, as well as emerging issues.
- Supervise: The Staff Attorney will supervise and mentor volunteers and interns on a periodic basis. Depending on experience, the Staff Attorney may supervise other employees in the future.
- Development: The Staff Attorney will occasionally assist in fundraising, including applying for and reporting on grants for the organization.

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- Three years or more experience as a practicing attorney. Relevant experience and outstanding work prior to obtaining a law degree will be considered.
- Experience practicing, or relevant life experience in, environmental, natural resource, energy, land use, or administrative law.
- Demonstrated interest in public interest advocacy and environmental justice.
- Life or work experience that demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Strong writing and research skills.
- Attention to detail and time management skills, including demonstrated ability to meet deadlines.
- Proven ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Member of Oregon or Washington State Bar or qualifications to gain admittance through reciprocity.

Preferred Qualifications and Skills:

- Experience supervising staff or interns.
- Experience working for, or in solidarity with, Tribal Nations (*please note any

experience in the cover letter).

- Knowledge of policy making and political processes in the Columbia River basin.
- Background in science or natural resources management.
- Local, state, or federal lobbying experience.
- Experience working with coalitions.

**A note to potential candidates: Studies have shown that women, trans, non-binary, BIPOC, and other candidates from most-impacted communities are less likely to apply for jobs unless they believe they meet every single one of the qualifications as described in a job description. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive organization. We would strongly encourage you to apply, even if you don't believe you meet every one of the qualifications described.*

Reports to: Senior Attorney

Salary & Benefits: \$65,000 to \$80,000 starting annual salary, depending on experience. Benefits include full medical and dental coverage, a generous vacation package, paid holidays and personal days, paid parental/family leave, 401k with employer contribution, paid state bar association dues, annual continuing legal education and self-care allowance, and an encouraging and flexible work environment.

To Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, at least three references, and a short writing sample that is entirely your own work to info@columbiariverkeeper.org with the subject line "Staff Attorney Job." If possible, please combine the cover letter, resume, references, and writing sample into a single PDF attachment titled "LastName.First Name Staff Attorney."

Application Deadline: April 18, 2022. Consider applying early; the Hiring Team will review applications on a rolling basis.

Start date: Flexible, prefer immediate.

Columbia Riverkeeper is committed to creating a diverse work environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.