



EPA Region 8 Honors Attorney Fellowship Office of Regional Counsel and Legal Enforcement Program Denver, Colorado

Application Period: Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 through Monday, January 11, 2016

Position Information: The Office of Regional Counsel and the Legal Enforcement Program, EPA Region 8, Denver, CO

Who May Be Considered: U.S. citizens who are graduates of an accredited law school admitted to practice in a State, U.S. territory, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico; or law students expected to graduate in Spring 2016

Diversity is a vital element in bringing a balance of perspectives to bear on the EPA's work. Accordingly, individuals from all segments of society – including but not limited to veterans, individuals with disabilities, women and minorities – are strongly encouraged to apply.

Job Summary:

EPA Region 8 is seeking one attorney for its 2016 Honors Attorney Fellowship Program. The Fellowship is designed for recent law school graduates with excellent academic credentials and a strong interest in an environmental law career. It provides an opportunity for entry-level attorneys to practice law in a leading government environmental organization, and to receive exposure to environmental law and policy work in the public sector. Region 8 offers Honors Attorneys significant responsibility, the opportunity to handle a varied caseload that includes counseling work in the Office of Regional Counsel, and extensive training and mentoring from dedicated colleagues with recognized expertise. The Region offers a collegial and supportive work environment. This Fellowship is an approximately one year temporary position, ending in September 2017, in the EPA Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado office. The Honors Attorney Fellow is expected to commit to the one-year term. Depending up on budget and other factors, it is possible that the position may be extended for a second year, during which the Honors Attorney would perform enforcement work in the Legal Enforcement Program. The position will begin between May and September 2016, depending upon the availability of the successful candidate.

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment, which Region 8 implements in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, and on the reservations of 27 tribal nations. The practice areas of the Office of Regional Counsel and the Legal Enforcement Program include the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund), the Oil Pollution Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Historic Preservation Act. Our practice entails a significant focus on Indian law and administrative law, and also includes general government law areas such as employment law, contracts and grants, ethics, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Attorneys in the Office of Regional Counsel serve as in-house counsel to the Regional Administrator and other Regional management and staff, both identifying and responding to legal matters involving the interpretation of environmental laws, regulations and policies in such matters as permitting and other agency actions. The Office of Regional Counsel also coordinates with the United States Department of Justice to defend EPA from

legal challenges. Attorneys in the Legal Enforcement Program represent Region 8 in federal administrative, judicial and criminal environmental matters against regulated entities within the jurisdiction of Region 8. The Legal Enforcement Program provides legal and policy support for both administrative and judicial enforcement cases in accordance with environmental laws. Enforcement attorneys' responsibilities include the preparation/issuance of administrative orders; preparation of judicial referrals; administrative and judicial litigation with attendant hearings; preparation of consent orders and decrees; and enforcement-related counseling.

Salary

During the first year, salary will be at the GS-11 level (currently starting at \$62,850 per year). There is promotion potential to GS-12 level (currently starting at \$75,333) during the second year, if the position is extended for a second year. There is no promotion potential beyond GS-12 for this position. Benefits are also provided. Relocation expenses are not authorized.

Qualifications:

Applicants must be United State citizens, and must be graduates of an accredited law school who are admitted to practice in a State, U.S. territory, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. Students graduating from an accredited law school in spring 2016 may also apply. Applicants must possess superior legal research and writing skills, excellent analytical skills, strong verbal communication skills, an interest in public service, and must excel when working as part of a team of attorneys and non-attorneys.

How to Apply:

Applicants should submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) an official or unofficial transcript of law school grades, and (4) contact telephone numbers, email addresses, and the names of three references, to R8HonorsAttorneyFellowship@epa.gov no later than 5 pm Mountain Standard Time on Monday, January 11th. Please include the statement "Application for Honors Attorney Fellowship Program" in the subject line of the email.

For any questions, please send an email to R8HonorsAttorneyFellowship@epa.gov with "Inquiry" in the subject line of the email. For other information about the EPA Region 8 office, please visit our website at <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-8-mountains-and-plains>.

Applicants may be invited to interview, at which point a short writing sample will be required. Finalists will be required to submit official copies of law school transcripts, and proof of bar membership (except for spring 2016 graduates).

There is no formal rating system for applying veteran's preference to attorney appointments in the excepted service; however, if you qualify for veterans preference and would like EPA to consider that preference as a positive factor in reviewing your application, you must include in your application appropriate documentation such as DD214 (copy 4), your VA letter, or Standard Form-15 (disabled veteran).

EPA provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please send an email to R8HonorsAttorneyFellowship@epa.gov with "Reasonable Accommodation Request" in the subject line. Decisions to grant reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

EPA is an equal opportunity employer. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, political affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status or other differences.