



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL (Norristown)
ASSISTANT COUNSEL
OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Pennsylvania Governor's Office of General Counsel (OGC) seeks a licensed attorney to work as an Assistant Counsel in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Chief Counsel's Southeast Regional Office (SEROCC). The position will be classified as either an Attorney, 1, 2, or 3 depending on the level of relevant experience possessed by the successful applicant. While based in Norristown, this position is eligible for a hybrid remote/in-office schedule of three days onsite at the discretion of the General Counsel.

DEP's Southeast Region is responsible for the Commonwealth's environmental oversight and administration of both state and federal environmental laws in southeastern Pennsylvania. Attorneys within this office provide counseling and litigation services for DEP's environmental programs, including, Clean Water, Waterway and Wetlands, Safe Drinking Water, Environmental Cleanup, Waste Management, Air Quality, and Radiation Protection. The attorneys draft, negotiate and litigate enforcement actions arising from violation of Pennsylvania's environmental statutes, review and defend permitting actions, and counsel the Regional clients on legal issues pertaining to program implementation. Trial and appellate litigation generally occurs before the PA Environmental Hearing Board and state or federal courts. Counsel also review responses generated by the programs for Pennsylvania Right to Know Law requests. The work requires close coordination with DEP's management and technical staff, including geologists, engineers, chemists and biologists, and applicants must be comfortable with learning aspects of these scientific disciplines as necessary to provide sound counseling service and to conduct effective direct and cross examination of both lay and expert witnesses during litigation.

The successful candidate for this position will have demonstrated: (1) solid legal research, analysis and reasoning capabilities; (2) superior inter-personal and communication skills, especially oral and written advocacy; (3) an ability to identify and resolve complicated and sensitive problems creatively and with professional discretion; (4) an ability and willingness to handle a wide variety of complex legal matters both independently and as part of a team; and (5) an ability to interact and function effectively within both the greater legal community and a governmental organization. Preferred candidates will have some knowledge of environmental law, as well as litigation exposure. Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to foster trust and respect and to create friendly and collaborative internal working relationships with Commonwealth clients are a must. This position requires the exercise of confidentiality and independent judgment.

The Governor's Office of General Counsel provides efficient, responsive legal services to the Commonwealth, the Governor, his cabinet members and more than 30 executive branch and independent agencies that conduct the business of the Commonwealth. This includes rendering legal advice and representation concerning matters and issues arising in connection with the operation of executive agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction, as well as select independent agencies. To learn more about OGC's mission and get an inside look at what it is like to be part of the OGC team, visit our website, at www.ogc.pa/careers.

In addition to aforementioned legal experience, the candidate must have a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA-accredited law school and be a member in good standing with the Pennsylvania Bar. Interested applicants should send a cover letter setting forth interest in this position, resume, and writing sample no later than March 1, 2023 to ogchiring@pa.gov, directed to Derek Riker, Deputy Chief of Staff, 333 Market Street, 17th Floor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101. OGC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a diverse workforce. The Commonwealth values inclusion as we seek to recruit, develop, and retain the most qualified people to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, union membership, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, AIDS or HIV status, disability, or any other categories protected by applicable federal or state law. All diverse candidates are encouraged to apply.