

SENIOR LAWYER/SENIOR SPECIALIST LAWYER – CLEAN AIR PROGRAM

Position description

Are you a lawyer with a passion for environmental justice? We are seeking a lawyer with at least 5 years' post-graduation legal experience to join our clean air program.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to a key area of EJA's work and significantly impact the lives of thousands of Australians. The program aims to reduce the harmful impacts of pollution on local communities and to significantly improve air pollution regulation for the benefit of people and the environment. The program works across NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

Working with a small collaborative and multidisciplinary team, you will manage the team's legal advice and law reform projects and develop strategies to improve the regulation of pollution. Some litigation may be involved for a candidate with litigation experience. The capacity and willingness to work closely with local communities and NGOs is essential.

The position is a full-time fixed-term position for 12 months (part time would be considered for the right candidate), with the likelihood of extension beyond this date. The position can be based in Victoria, NSW or Queensland.

The candidate must be admitted to practice or eligible for admission to practice in Australia.

Applications close Sunday 20 June 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST).

About us

Environmental Justice Australia is a leading public interest legal organisation. Our lawyers act on behalf of people and community organisations to safeguard health; protect magnificent forests, rivers and wildlife; and tackle the climate crisis. We partner with communities and other social justice organisations because we are stronger together.

Using innovative approaches, we find the best legal solutions to climate and environmental issues. Our team works inside and outside the courtroom to make the system fair and just for all. We work on issues and in areas of Australia where we can have the most impact.

Responsibilities

- Depending on experience, lead or contribute to the development and implementation of the program's strategy.
- Depending on experience, manage or contribute to the running of the clean air program including managing budgets, establishing and maintaining funding relationships, and program reporting and representing EJA at external meetings.
- Supervise legal and non-legal staff and guide their work programs.
- Provide high quality legal advice and representation to community and NGO clients in matters related to air pollution, coal pollution and energy; and support junior lawyers to do the same.
- Engage in and supervise policy and law reform work including researching and writing reports on clean air issues.
- Work with the Clean Air Campaigner and Communications Director to ensure our work is communicated effectively to multiple audiences.
- Build and maintain excellent relationships with key stakeholders including government and politicians, partner organisations, funders and community groups.
- Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, including planning and reporting.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Admission to practice law or eligibility to be admitted to practice law in Australia.
- At least 5 years' post-graduation legal experience for the senior lawyer role. At least 7 years' post graduation experience for the senior specialist lawyer role.
- Experience in developing and delivering programs, preferably related to public interest law.
- Experience in managing junior lawyers.
- A commitment to environmental or social justice issues.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate legal concepts in plain English to a variety of audiences.
- Initiative, energy and self-motivation – an ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment, and to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.

Desirable

- Experience running administrative law litigation in an Australian jurisdiction.
- Involvement in environmental or social change campaigns (whether in a professional or personal capacity).
- Experience being a media spokesperson.

Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for this role will be negotiated based on the following:

- The position is full time, but part time would be considered for the right candidate.
- The EJA office is in Melbourne however the role can be based in NSW, Victoria or Queensland. If not based in Melbourne occasional travel to Melbourne would be required, at EJA's expense.
- Out of hours work is required occasionally.
- Terms and conditions of employment are based on the SCHADS award and Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with an over-award salary of \$98,058 to \$114,488 (plus super and annual leave loading) depending on experience. (Salary would be pro-rated for a part-time position.) . This role is being advertised across two EJA employment levels and an offer will be made at the relevant level depending on the candidate's experience.
- Please note that unfortunately salary sacrificing is not available.

Environmental Justice Australia is an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQI people and people with a disability are encouraged to apply.

How to apply

Applicants are encouraged to contact EJA's Co-CEO Nicola Rivers before applying to discuss the position, particularly if you are not located in Melbourne, on 03 8341 3112.

Interested? Send us a brief application comprising:

- your resume; and
- a statement of no more than 3 pages detailing why you want to work with us and addressing the selection criteria outlined above.

Email your application to Nicola Rivers, Co-CEO at recruitment@envirojustice.org.au. Please do not send hard copies. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email.

Closing date: Sunday 20 June 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST).