



2201 Washington Street, Suite 302
Roxbury, MA 02119
<http://www.ace-ej.org/>; 617-442-3343

SEEKING PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS WITH OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCE

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) seeks to sponsor one or more candidates for public interest law fellowships supported by outside funding. Because ACE does not have independent funding to hire fellows at this time, we will limit our review of applications to those candidates who have identified a source of funding (e.g., fellowship funding through law school, Skadden or Equal Justice Works Fellowship).

As a fellowship sponsor, ACE would provide an entry-level attorney the opportunity to spend 1-2 years at a highly-respected community-based environmental justice organization. The position would commence in late summer or early fall of 2015 for an attorney with funding from their law school and in fall 2016 for a Skadden or Equal Justice Works Fellowship. For candidates that have identified a funding source, ACE's Senior Attorney will support fellowship applicants to develop their proposals, including specific projects, if appropriate.

Based in Roxbury, MA, ACE is a non-profit environmental justice organization that builds the power of low-income communities and communities of color in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. We believe that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting our communities.

ACE organizes residents, provides legal/technical support to community groups, develops youth leadership, and coordinates campaigns on critical environmental justice issues. At ACE, we believe that people who are directly impacted by decisions should be speaking for themselves and affecting the decision-making process. As a member of ACE's environmental justice legal services team, the Legal Fellow will have the unique opportunity to be trained as a community lawyer to provide legal support to groups of low-income residents and communities of color looking to work together to improve their quality of life. ACE is the premier environmental justice organization in Massachusetts with a model that addresses the root causes of injustice by employing the following tactics: community organizing, legal services, technical assistance, and strategic coalitions. The Legal Fellow will focus on four areas of work, if a specific project is not otherwise identified:

1. **Case Intakes** – The Legal Fellow will be responsible for handling telephone calls, e-mails, and in-person requests for legal or technical assistance. The case intake process includes meeting with community groups to conduct outreach and respond to requests, completing an eligibility process, and facilitating discussions with the ACE Legal Advisory Board Committee to determine whether to accept a case.
2. **Legal Advice and Representation** – The Legal Fellow will manage a case load by providing direct legal advice and representation to client groups. This includes writing comment letters in support of clients' positions to local, state, and federal agencies; testifying at public hearings; liaising with agency employees; and negotiating with private companies. Occasionally, the representation may involve administrative litigation.



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3. **Manage Pro Bono Network** – ACE has managed the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Assistance Network (MEJAN) for more than 20 years. ACE conducts the outreach and intake to identify eligible client groups and submits requests to MEJAN professionals. The Legal Fellow will invite professionals to join MEJAN, oversee the match process, and provide ongoing coaching support to MEJAN professionals.
4. **Movement Building** – ACE’s work is part of a larger environmental justice movement. The Legal Fellow will be responsible for communicating with national and regional networks of environmental justice advocates. The Legal Fellow will contribute to movement building by speaking about ACE’s work at conferences, trainings, and other events.

The Legal Fellow will work closely with ACE’s Senior Attorney and Volunteer Attorney / MEJAN Coordinator and members.

Qualifications

- J.D. Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar or awaiting the results of the Bar Examination.
- Strong commitment to social/environmental justice and community empowerment, preferably with 0-2 years of experience providing legal assistance or environmental or social justice advocacy in low-income communities and communities of color.
- Excellent legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills.
- Good listener and facilitator, well organized, good interpersonal skills.
- Team player, self-starter, quick learner, and ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Flexibility to work weeknights and occasional weekends.
- Knowledge of environmental justice law and policy preferred.
- Personal connection to an environmental justice community preferred.
- Spanish language fluency a plus.

Salary

- Salary and benefits will be determined by the terms of the fellowship.
- Please indicate whether you have identified specific sources of funding.

To apply

Email resume, cover letter, and writing sample to Staci Rubin, ACE Senior Attorney and Environmental Justice Legal Services Program Director, at Staci@ace-ej.org. Deadline to apply: Applications must be filed in a timely manner that allows sufficient preparation before fellowship applications are due. Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please see ACE’s website: www.ace-ej.org.