



KENTUCKY RESOURCES COUNCIL

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Now Hiring: Program Attorney (Grant Funded for 3 Years)

About the Kentucky Resources Council (KRC):

KRC is a public-interest environmental law and advocacy organization that works to protect Kentucky's natural resources, fight for environmental health and justice, and teach citizens to be effective environmental stewards. We believe everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, and land free of pollution; that nature should be protected from abuse; and a healthy environment is essential for a sound economy. Since the organization was founded in 1984, KRC has been at the center of most significant energy and environmental issues facing the Commonwealth. From helping to end the scourge of strip mining under the notorious "broad form" mineral deed, to protecting some of our most treasured lands from development and strip mining, to helping empower thousands of individuals seeking to protect their lands, health, and communities, KRC has remained steadfast in its work to protect our built and natural communities from pollution and environmental damage.

In January 2023, KRC is launching a new program, *Good Trouble: a Proposal for Coordinated Strategies and Actions in Pursuit of Environmental Health and Justice in Kentucky*. Working with allied organizations and supported by technical and legal experts, we are designing a comprehensive environmental permit review training program for citizens and attorneys. This initiative will advance environmental protection, health, and justice across the Commonwealth by combining meaningful citizen participation, science-backed information and analysis, and technical and legal expertise to ensure that Kentucky's environmental decisions are protective of public health and the environment. This project will, for the first time, provide the resources here in Kentucky to empower the public to participate in the permitting processes in the robust and consistent manner envisioned by our nation's environmental laws.

Job Description:

The **Good Trouble Program Attorney** will work with KRC's Executive Director, the Good Trouble Project Manager, and other legal staff to design and execute the Good Trouble program, including providing legal support for citizen permit review, drafting comments on complex permits, and bringing administrative and legal challenges to deficient permits and environmental decisions. This is a grant-funded 3-year position, with potential for a permanent hire.

Essential Duties:

- Work collaboratively to develop the permit review training modules, guidance documents, and templates for the Good Trouble program
- Lead trainings for citizens, community groups, and attorneys, to provide the resources needed for them to understand the various permitting and compliance processes, so they may become adept in conducting permit reviews, in advocating for more stringent controls and accountability mechanisms in permit decisions, and in monitoring the compliance of various industrial, commercial, and institutional pollution sources
- Assist citizens in, and prepare as needed, public comments on select proposed permits
- Train citizens on how to effectively participate in public hearings; attend select public hearings
- Provide legal support for public comments and when needed, seek administrative and judicial remedies to ensure compliance with permits and with the environmental laws designed to protect Kentucky's citizens, communities, the environment, and our climate
- Work with scientific experts and educational institutions to provide the public with the scientific background and data necessary to engage in environmental decision-making
- Comment on "rulemakings" by the State and the EPA, in order to advocate for regulations and pollution control limits that are more protective of public health and the environment
- Participate in researching, writing, and editing briefs, comment letters, complaints, legislation, and other case and project documents
- Assist on other KRC environmental and energy cases as needed, including administrative appeals, and cases before the Public Service Commission and state and federal courts
- Draft and respond to discovery, motion practice, court appearances, mediation, and trial

Candidate Qualifications and Attributes:

- A collaborative team player with strong research, writing, and analytic skills
- A commitment to environmental protection and justice
- Relevant state and federal environmental or administrative law experience
- A self-starter, strategic thinker, and strong communicator
- Law degree and the ability to obtain a Kentucky law license within 6 months of the start of employment, if not currently licensed to practice law in Kentucky

Compensation: Salary commensurate with experience and years of practice (range provided upon offer of an interview). Benefits include a monthly contribution to a Health Reimbursement Account, a retirement plan with employer match, two weeks sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation.

Location: KRC maintains a virtual office, but the legal fellow must be located in/near Kentucky, as the position will require some travel to hearings, court appearances, and events across Kentucky.

To Apply: Please send a **cover letter, resume, and three references** to careers@kyrc.org.

KRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.