



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER
Senior Attorney OR Staff Attorney Position

ABOUT THE JOB

The Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”), one of the nation’s longest running non-profit environmental law firms, is seeking applicants to fill a full time Staff Attorney or Senior Attorney position.

The compensation ranges are as follows:

Staff Attorney: \$90,000-\$115,000

Senior Attorney: \$120,000-\$135,000

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

EDC is a non-profit, public interest law firm that works to protect California’s Central Coast, natural spaces, and wildlife both on and offshore, and the earth’s climate. Founded after the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, EDC has a long history of defending Central Coast communities from environmental threats and injustice. Recent legal successes include a moratorium on offshore fracking in the region, and a settlement that halted dumping of toxic wastewater into the Santa Ynez River. More information about EDC’s cases and activities can be found at www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org.

EDC is headquartered in Santa Barbara, California, and our work focuses primarily within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, including the northern Channel Islands and the ocean waters seaward of this region’s shores. Our mission is to defend nature and advance environmental justice on California’s Central Coast through advocacy and legal action.

EDC maintains a fast-paced practice in the field of environmental, natural resources, and land use law. EDC represents community groups and environmental organizations in state and federal courts and before local, state, and federal agencies. Since 1977, we have empowered more than 140 community-based organizations to advance environmental protection. EDC cases involve issues in virtually all local, state, and federal environmental statutes, including CEQA, NEPA, ESA, CAA, CWA, CZMA, OCSLA, California Coastal Act, MMPA, and California Planning and Zoning Law.

SUMMARY OF THE POSITION

The Senior Attorney is responsible for managing their own caseload, helps develop EDC’s legal and program case docket, and supervises other staff, including staff attorneys, program staff, law clerks, and interns. The Staff Attorney works on EDC cases and helps supervise other staff, law clerks, and interns. Both Senior and Staff Attorneys assist with other aspects of non-profit advocacy including public outreach, education, and fundraising.

This is a full-time position located in Santa Barbara with the opportunity to work a hybrid schedule. Primary residency within EDC’s 3-county service area is required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS – SENIOR OR STAFF ATTORNEY

- California bar license.
- Experience in public interest environmental administrative advocacy and litigation.
- Excellent analytical, research, writing, and speaking skills.
- Preference for experience in California as well as federal cases.
- Demonstrated affinity for working constructively as a member of a team.
- Willingness to assist with other functions of a non-profit, including fundraising, events, public outreach and education, and media relations.
- Bilingual fluency in Spanish is a plus, but not required.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – SENIOR ATTORNEY

- At least seven years' experience in public interest environmental advocacy and litigation.
- Experience managing a caseload.
- Experience serving as lead chair in litigation, preferably both California and federal.
- Experience serving as lead chair in administrative advocacy before local, state, and/or federal agencies.
- Supervision of associate attorneys, other staff, law clerks/externs, and interns.
- Proficiency in developing a case docket.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & JUSTICE

EDC is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive work culture. We believe that a diverse workforce that includes historically marginalized and excluded groups of people improves our ability to assist our clients; enhances intellectual engagement; inspires innovation and creativity; and promotes critical thinking and solution-finding. EDC is devoted to hiring a diverse team of qualified people with respect to gender identity (including gender expression), race, sexual orientation, family status, religion, ethnicity, age, physical abilities, and other factors. EDC also makes reasonable accommodations for qualified people with disabilities.

BENEFITS

EDC offers a generous benefit package including health, dental, vision, long-term disability, life insurance, and retirement matching contribution for employees, plus contributions toward health insurance coverage for dependents and spouses. Paid vacation and sick leave are provided, plus 10 holidays. In addition, employees are paid during EDC's Winter Break, from December 24 through December 31, when our office is closed.

TO APPLY

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, professional references, and legal writing sample(s) to Maggie Hall, Deputy Chief Counsel, at MHall@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org. Application period will be open until filled. **We will only respond to applicants who have a California bar license and a demonstrated interest in environmental law.**