



ANNOUNCEMENT: ACCEPTING 2022 & 2023 POST-GRADUATE LEGAL FELLOWSHIP PROPOSALS

Organization Description

Founded in 1978, Communities for a Better Environment (“CBE”) is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. CBE’s mission is to build people’s power in California’s communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy, and sustainable communities and environments.

CBE envisions a society in which production and consumption are based on environmental and social sustainability, where it’s held as a basic human right to breathe clean air and drink clean water where we live, work, go to school, play, and pray—regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, culture, ability, nationality, or income. CBE combines community organizing backed by legal strategy, research, communications and media, and civic engagement to work toward this vision.

Job Description

CBE seeks proposals from candidates interested in a post-graduate legal fellowship funded by outside sources, such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Justice Catalyst, or their law school. Unfortunately, CBE is not able to provide an internally funded fellowship at this time.

Legal fellows play a critical role in CBE’s legal department and participate in the full range of tasks the department performs. These tasks include legal research and writing, administrative advocacy, coalition work, and all stages of litigation matters, including brief writing and settlement negotiations. Legal fellows also participate in a variety of substantive matters, including, but not limited to:

- Litigation surrounding toxics, air, and water quality in overburdened communities.
- Policy advocacy for housing justice and equitable land use and transit policies.
- Energy justice advocacy at the California Public Utilities Commission on issues including equitable building decarbonization, microgrids, and rate affordability.
- California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) comment letters on proposed projects.

CBE has offices in Northern California (Richmond, CA) and Southern California (Huntington Park, CA). Both offices are accepting fellowship applications. However, CBE is currently working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the possibility that offices will re-open depending on state and local health restrictions during the fellowship.

How to Apply

Please email the following materials to fellowships@cbeocal.org:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Legal writing sample
- Specific project proposal (optional)

Please include a one-page cover letter describing what brings you to apply to CBE and your interest in CBE's work and environmental justice. Please include in your cover letter (1) whether you have a specific project proposal or if you would prefer to develop a project jointly with CBE, and (2) which office you would prefer to be placed in. You may also state in your cover letter if you have a specific area of interest for your project (for example, clean energy, toxics, CEQA, etc.). However, please note that neither a project proposal nor specific area of interest is required to apply.

Deadline

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting Spring 2022.

Please reach out to fellowships@cbeocal.org with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you!