Earthjustice’s Coal Program, which uses litigation and advocacy to challenge the coal industry’s harmful impacts on people and the environment and to speed our nation’s transition to clean energy, is now accepting applications for candidates interested in seeking post-graduate legal fellowships funded through a law school or other sources to commence in the fall of 2017. The position would be based in our Philadelphia office.

Earthjustice is the premier nonprofit environmental law organization. We take on the biggest, most precedent-setting cases across the country. We wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people’s health; to preserve magnificent places and wildlife; to advance clean energy; and to combat climate change. We partner with thousands of groups and supporters to engage the critical environmental issues of our time, and bring about positive change. We are here because the earth needs a good lawyer.

Founded in 1971, Earthjustice has a distinguished track record of achieving significant, lasting environmental protections. We achieve this by hiring people who share a passion for justice and a healthy environment. Our headquarters are in San Francisco with offices in Anchorage, Juneau, Los Angeles, Tallahassee, Honolulu, New York, Philadelphia, Denver, Seattle, Miami, Bozeman, and Washington, DC.

Our Work: The fellowship attorney will work closely with experienced Earthjustice attorneys in challenging our nation’s reliance on aging coal-fired power plants, and to speed the transition to clean energy resources. Our docket includes litigation and legal advocacy in three primary areas. First, we work to require the promulgation of stringent environmental standards to reduce pollution from coal plants, and to defend those standards from industry lawsuits. Second, we bring permitting and enforcement actions to ensure that our nation’s environmental standards are faithfully implemented, and that coal plants comply with those standards. Third, we litigate in state public utility commissions to halt proposed investments in aging and uneconomic coal plants and to shift such investments to clean energy resources. The Fellow will work closely with staff attorneys and clients to develop and implement litigation and advocacy strategies, and will participate in the full range of tasks involved, such as factual investigation, legal research, discovery, briefing, witness preparation, and oral advocacy.

Who We Are Looking For: Earthjustice seeks highly qualified candidates who possess outstanding legal research and writing skills and are interested in working as a fellow for at least one year. Applicants should be third-year law students, judicial clerks, or other recent law school graduates who are eligible for post-graduate fellowships. Applicants should have a strong academic record, strong work ethic and sense of initiative, sound and creative judgment, and an ability to work well in a collegial setting.

Acquiring Fellowship Funding: If selected by Earthjustice, the candidate will be responsible for securing funding through a fellowship, as Earthjustice is unable provide compensation for this position. Candidates should identify potential sources of funding before applying but do not need to have secured such funding at the time of their application. Please note that deadlines for applying for third-party funding vary based on source.
To Apply
Interested applicants should submit their:
- Cover Letter. If your fellowship will necessitate identifying a specific project proposal, please note in your cover letter if you have an idea for a possible fellowship proposal (optional to include a short description, no longer than 1 page), and/or if you are interested in developing a project jointly with Earthjustice.
- Resume
- Writing Sample, preferably a legal brief or memorandum
- Law school transcript

Click here to apply.

Please reach out to jobs@earthjustice.org if you are having technical difficulties submitting your application. No phone calls, drop-ins, or hard copies.

Earthjustice is driven by a passion for justice, partnership, and excellence. Our core values lead us to seek a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds to achieve our mission and to maintain an inclusive environment where all staff are valued and respected. As an equal opportunity employer, we are committed to employment practices that ensure that employees and applicants for employment are provided with equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other factor that is not related to the position.