



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEER LEGAL EXTERNSHIP OR INTERNSHIP LEGAL DEPARTMENT FULL- OR PART-TIME SAN FRANCISCO HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

The Coastal Commission is accepting applications for full- or part-time legal externships (or internships) in the Commission's Legal Department in the agency's San Francisco office for the fall, spring, and summer semesters of the academic year.

The California Coastal Commission is a State agency charged with protecting coastal resources and managing coastal development in California. The mission of the Commission is to provide for balanced use of the coastal zone and to protect, restore and enhance coastal and marine resources for the continuing benefit of current and future generations. The Commission is composed of 12 voting members, appointed equally by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The core of the Commission's work is the planning and regulation of the use of land and water in the coastal zone pursuant to the Coastal Act, a state law established by voter initiative in 1976. Operating out of 6 offices up and down the coast, including its San Francisco headquarters, Commission staff reviews and makes recommendations to the Commission on applications for development permits along the state's coastal zone. It also works with coastal cities and counties on their development of long-range plans and zoning codes for those jurisdictions' coastal areas.

The Position: The Coastal Commission is seeking motivated law students to assist the agency's Legal Department in advising the Coastal Commission and its staff on legal issues arising from the agency's review of development proposals under the Coastal Act. As a legal intern or extern, law students will gain invaluable experience with state and federal environmental, land use, and administrative laws. They will have the opportunity to explore and research complex and novel legal issues pertaining to the Coastal Act, California land use and zoning laws, U.S. and California Constitutions, constitutional takings issues, real property and recorded documents, the California Public Records Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, the Subdivision Map Act, tribal consultation laws, open meeting laws, affordable housing laws, and the public trust doctrine. Students will be asked to research statutes and regulations and to prepare legal research memoranda, and will be integrated into the Legal Department's day-to-day operations. Students may have the opportunity to assist legal counsel in advising Commission staff on proposals for development in the coastal zone and to attend Coastal Commission meetings (held monthly in locations throughout the state).

The position requires a minimum commitment of 15-20 hours/week.

Qualifications: The position requires strong legal research skills, an interest in environmental and land use issues, and the ability to work independently but also under the supervision of an attorney and as part of a team. Candidates with some educational or work experience in environmental law, administrative law, biology, land use planning, geology, or similar fields is preferred. Excellent writing and speaking skills are important. Applicants must be enrolled in their second year of law school during the externship or internship.

To Apply: Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, writing sample (no more than 5 pages), and three references to:

Erin Chalmers
Senior Staff Counsel
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219
Erin.chalmers@coastal.ca.gov

Deadlines: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

Contacts: Human Resources Office
(415) 904-5430
HumanResources@coastal.ca.gov

Erin Chalmers
Senior Staff Counsel
(415) 904-5220
Erin.chalmers@coastal.ca.gov

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right to family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

California Relay Services for the Hearing Impaired call 711