October 2016

Lawyer, Energy Transition and Environment
EU Coal & Energy Project
Strategic Litigation programme - London

Job description

Job purpose

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a lawyer to make a key contribution to ensuring that Europe's power sector complies with applicable environmental standards and minimises its impact on public health, the environment and the climate. Progressive and innovative legal action has the potential to transform the EU landscape, to overcome persistent barriers to complete Europe's internal energy market and to drive investment in sustainable alternatives.

Working relationships

The lawyer will work in our EU Energy and Coal project focusing on the compliance and enforcement of existing environmental standards and regulations in the power sectors of a number of key EU jurisdictions, particularly in relation to coal. You will be part of ClientEarth's Strategic Litigation Programme - a vibrant and expanding team using litigation to accelerate Europe's transition to a low carbon future.

Key responsibilities

- Researching and evaluating the potential for using legal interventions to enforce EU environmental laws such as the Industrial Emissions Directive;
- Identifying opportunities and developing cases for targeted legal intervention, litigation, complaints to the European Commission and regulators;
- Evaluating and managing the risks and opportunities of potential cases;
- Preparing high quality written work, for example writing complaints and other legal documents as well as other documents tailored to communicate our thinking on this project to a wide variety of legal, policy, political and civil society audiences;
- Initiating and maintaining collaborative partnerships and working relationships with key partners such as other NGOs, lawyers, science and policy experts, journalists and politicians;
- Participating in formal and informal forums and groups, and representing ClientEarth's thinking and analysis in external forums;
- Where required, preparing applications, reports and presentations for submission to funders;
- Developing and engaging in communications associated with the project including website communications and press relations.

Location

The role is based in ClientEarth's London office. Travel to other locations where ClientEarth has an office (Brussels/Warsaw) and elsewhere in Europe will be expected in the role.

October 2016

Person Specification

Education and training

- Law degree or equivalent
- Relevant legal professional qualification in an EU jurisdiction.

Experience & knowledge

- At least 3-4 years relevant legal experience in an EU Member State/at EU level (essential);
- Knowledge of EU environmental Law (essential). Additional knowledge of one or more of the following practice areas is highly desirable: Public/administrative law; EU Energy Law (preferred);
- Demonstrated success in a regulatory (e.g., government / in-house / environment agency) or litigation environment is highly desirable;
- Practical litigation experience;
- Working knowledge of EU law and institutions and litigation in national and European courts.

Key competencies

- Excellent creative, critical and lateral thinking and analytical skills;
- Ability to grasp quickly new concepts and areas of law with an openness to learning and new ideas;
- Strong legal research, analysis, writing, advisory and advocacy skills;
- A practical, outcome-focused approach to the law;
- Ability to think and plan strategically, and to break complex issues and strategies into defined, outcome-orientated activities;
- Superior written and oral communication skills to give authoritative advice and influence external audiences and to adapt language, content and style to make communications relevant to partners, policy-makers and funders;
- Confident working with and assimilating complex technical, scientific, political and legal material;
- Ability to represent ClientEarth externally, including by engaging constructively -- and developing relationships - with a range of external stakeholders, including with EU institutions, government, partner organizations, industry and civil society;
- Ability to work both independently and in a team-oriented, collaborative manner within a multi-disciplinary and multicultural environmental;
- Top calibre organisational skills and ability to set own priorities, as well as to manage multiple tasks and react positively in light of shifting and competing timelines as a result of internal and external developments;
- Motivated to achieve results and to spot and take advantage of opportunities to achieve change;
- Fluent in English and ideally another European language (Spanish / Italian / Greek would be particularly beneficial).