

2022 Internship/Externship Opportunity
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of the General Counsel, Natural Resources Section

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of the General Counsel Natural Resources Section (GCNR) is seeking a second or third year law student volunteer intern or extern for a virtual internship/externship.

We are seeking dedicated applicants who are interested in working with a team of legal professionals to advise agency staff and advance the vital mission of NOAA: to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources and understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

NOAA GC is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment in which it leverages diversity to achieve mission goals and maximize the potential of individuals and NOAA. NOAA GC is working to ensure that the organization's management practices and organizational culture reflect this commitment and create opportunities for all employees to fully contribute to NOAA's mission and serve the Nation.

NOAA GC seeks to reduce barriers to participation in our NOAA GC Internship Program, improve recruitment and outreach to interested students, recruit interns from diverse backgrounds, and ensure interns have a meaningful work experience at NOAA GC in terms of quality of work, mentoring opportunities, and an understanding of potential career opportunities within NOAA and the federal government.

NOAA GC

NOAA GC provides legal advice to the NOAA Administrator and NOAA program offices on a wide variety of legal issues including implementing administrative and federal law requirements and procedures; protecting and managing marine resources such as U.S. and international fisheries, marine mammals, and endangered and threatened marine species; conserving and managing ocean and coastal areas and marine sanctuaries; predicting and communicating weather forecasts; planning and managing Earth-observing satellite systems; and licensing of commercial satellites. NOAA is a premier federal environmental agency located within the U.S. Department of Commerce and employs over 12,000 people nationwide. NOAA GC employs approximately 120 attorneys at headquarters in the Washington, DC area and six regional sections: Seattle, WA; St. Petersburg, FL; Gloucester, MA; Long Beach, CA; Juneau, AK; and Honolulu, HI. For more information see www.noaa.gov and www.gc.noaa.gov.

Natural Resources Section

The Natural Resources Section seeks recoveries from responsible parties for injuries to our Nation's natural resources caused by releases of hazardous substances, oil spills, and physical impacts (e.g., vessel groundings) to unique resources located in National Marine Sanctuaries. Our foundational statutes - the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) - allow for direct compensation of natural resource damages through restoration projects. The Section has attorneys located in NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, and in four regional offices in Seattle, Washington; Long Beach, California; Gloucester, Massachusetts; and St. Petersburg, Florida.

Scope of Internship with NOAA GCNR

As an intern with NOAA GCNR, you will have opportunities to develop legal skills under the supervision of experienced attorneys. This will include conducting legal research, drafting memoranda, developing written and oral communication skills in settings with attorneys and non-legal staff within the agency, and advising agency staff on legal issues. You will participate in regular Section meetings and meetings with agency staff. You will work closely with experienced NOAA GCNR attorneys to research and resolve complex legal issues and advise agency staff on legal requirements.

Criteria for Selection

NOAA GCNR is seeking dedicated interns or externs who are interested in and enthusiastic about working with a team of legal professionals to advise agency staff within NOAA and advance NOAA's mission. We encourage applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds to apply.

Applicants should demonstrate initiative and interest in the work of NOAA GCNR. Applicants with an interest in public sector work and/or an interest in environmental issues, particularly natural resource damage assessment, will be favorably considered. Applicants should be able to work virtually in a collaborative team setting with attorneys, agency clients, and support staff. Applicants should possess an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the needs and concerns of individuals from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and orientations and must be willing to contribute to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work culture that encourages and appreciates differences.

Applicants should have a strong understanding of legal research and legal writing skills, and should be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing. Applicants should be able to manage and complete assigned tasks in an efficient manner. Applicants should be interested in broadening an understanding of relevant law and developing practical legal skills during the course of the internship. Applicants should also be able to complete tasks with minimal day-to-day supervision in a virtual working environment.

Second and third-year law students are preferred, but applications from first-year and LLM students will be considered.

Application Materials and Deadline

To apply, please provide the following:

- Cover letter indicating interest in working with the NOAA GC Natural Resources Section.

- Resume.
- Writing sample (5-10 pages; legal memorandum preferred).
- Law school transcript (unofficial is fine).

Applicants may be asked to provide professional references during the interview process.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (as they come in), so interested students should apply early, but in no case later than September 30, 2022. Interested students should submit their applications to Joe Edgell at joseph.edgell@noaa.gov.

Additional Details

This internship/externship is unpaid. We can work with students to obtain class credit if requested.

Inquiries

Please send inquiries via email to joseph.edgell@noaa.gov.

Location

This internship/externship is virtual. The selectee will work from their normal city of residence.