

## **NOAA General Counsel Summer Internship Position Announcement**

### **Position Description**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of the General Counsel (GC) is seeking law student candidates for full-time summer internships of generally 40 hours per week with NOAA GC's Fisheries and Protected Resources Section (GCF) and Environmental Review and Coordination Section (GC ERC). Internships will be unpaid volunteer positions; we anticipate filling two such positions in Summer 2025. Accepted candidates will perform work for both sections.

GCF provides legal counsel to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency responsible for managing and sustaining most living marine resources and their habitat in U.S. waters. Section lawyers work on substantive and procedural laws relating to living marine resources, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

GC ERC collaboratively works across all NOAA offices to ensure that NOAA programs comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other trust resource statutes under NOAA's jurisdiction. GC ERC also provides support and coordination on NEPA and environmental review and permitting issues with the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of Commerce, and other federal agencies.

Interns with GCF and GC ERC will perform substantive legal work and develop an understanding of the role of federal environmental agency counsel. Tasks may include conducting legal research, drafting memoranda, and assisting attorneys in counseling agency clients on legal issues. Interns may assist attorneys in engaging with NOAA scientists and staff, policy makers and technical staff, Department of Commerce officials, other Federal and state agency officials, staff for members of Congress, members of the regulated community, and representatives of public interest organizations, and may assist NOAA GC attorneys in litigation, in concert with U.S. Department of Justice attorneys.

### **Overview of 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.

### **Location, Dates, and Eligibility**

GCF and GC ERC offices are co-located in Silver Spring, Maryland. The offices employ a hybrid approach where staff attorneys in the area are in the office a minimum of two days per biweekly pay period. Interns have the option of coming into the offices in Silver Spring, Maryland in a hybrid manner or working fully remote. Interns may also choose to split their summer into both hybrid and remote options.

This internship will occur in Summer 2025. We will work with candidates flexibly on setting exact dates for the internship, seeking a minimum eight week commitment.

The internship is an unpaid position. If you are eligible to receive credit for this internship with your educational institution, we would be happy to work with you to determine whether the internship meets the institution's requirements and assist in completion of related paperwork. Current J.D. and LLM students are eligible to apply.

### **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 the Agency's mission and serve the Nation.

The NOAA GC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Taskforce is committed to targeting solutions to create and foster a diverse, inclusive, and equitable workforce and culture within NOAA GC. As one aspect of that commitment, NOAA GC seeks to reduce barriers to participation in our NOAA GC Internship Program, improve recruitment and outreach to interested students and 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.

### **How to Apply**

Interested students should submit their applications to [grace.bauer@noaa.gov](mailto:grace.bauer@noaa.gov) by December 6, 2024, attaching the following:

- Cover letter
- Resume

- Writing sample (5-10 pages; legal memorandum preferred)
- Law school transcript (unofficial accepted)

The cover letter should include your interest in working with GCF and GC ERC, the timeframe you would propose for your internship (including any telework or other alternative work schedules you may wish to seek), and whether you would like your internship experience to receive course credit through your educational institution.

We expect to conduct interviews and make selections in the first half of January 2025.