

Position Description: Principal lawyer

January 2018

Are you a lawyer with a passion for environmental justice? We are looking for an experienced litigator for a leadership role in our Melbourne office.

The position involves leading the development and execution of innovative litigation and other legal strategies that benefit communities and the environment. You will be working with other lawyers in our team, working across multiple jurisdictions.

The position is a full time position (with the possibility of 0.8FTE) to start as early as possible in 2018.

About us

We're a small team of lawyers supported by a communications, fundraising and administrative team working on issues across climate change, nature protection and healthy communities. We use our legal expertise to be a powerful force for change, to empower communities to protect the environment, and to achieve a better legal system that delivers justice to people and the planet.

Responsibilities

- Provide timely and strategic legal advice to community groups, environment organisations and other collaborators.
- Work with our clients and partners to develop and pursue litigation strategies including identifying opportunities, securing funding, and managing all aspects of the litigation from initiation of proceedings and briefing barristers, to trial and appeal.
- Contribute to policy and law reform work including legal research and contributing to the preparation of reports and submissions.
- Supervise, mentor and support others lawyers in the team.
- Supervise and work with professional and student volunteers
- Media engagement and representing EJA in public forums.
- Contribute to organisational management.
- With other principals, manage the EJA legal practice including trust account and compliance responsibilities.

Selection criteria

The skills, qualifications and experience we are seeking

Here's our list of the qualities and experience we think are important for this position. However, while you will definitely need to be an admitted legal practitioner with substantial litigation experience, beyond these essentials what is most important to us is a track record of getting things done and a passion for environmental justice.

- Demonstrated commitment to environmental and social justice issues.
- An unrestricted practising certificate and the ability to obtain trust account authorisation.
- At least 5 years post admission experience in environmental law, working in government, private practice or in a non-government organisation.
- Substantial litigation experience.
- Strategic planning, implementation and problem solving skills.
- Knowledge of environmental policy, politics and issues.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Leadership, supervision, delegation and mentoring skills.
- Initiative, energy, self motivation, and ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment.
- An ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain strong relationships with colleagues, community members, partner organisations, and other professionals.
- Keeness to work closely with local communities to support their campaigns.
- Willingness to travel (role will involve working outside the EJA office at times, including interstate).
- Comfortable working in a community setting (outside a traditional office environment).
- Media and communications experience.
- Experience in writing clear and compelling issues papers, reports and articles or similar for publication.
- Public speaking, presentation and facilitation experience.

How to apply

Send us a brief application comprising:

1. Your resume; and
2. A statement of no more than two pages detailing why you want to work with us and how your qualifications, skills and experience make you well suited to the role .

You should email your application to our CEO, Brendan Sydes, at brendan.sydes@envirojustice.org.au

Enquiries: Brendan Sydes on 0439 355 747