

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY UNIT CHIEF
SPECIAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
CIVIL DIVISION
RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PAYGRADE - 8738 (\$92,186 - \$105,920)
July 29, 2021 – August 18, 2021**

The Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General is seeking an experienced attorney to assume the position of Environmental and Energy Unit Chief within the Public Protection Bureau of the Civil Division.

About the Office: The Attorney General is the state's top lawyer and law enforcement official, protecting and serving the people and interests of Rhode Island through a broad range of duties. Every day, the Office's attorneys fight to ensure the public safety of the state's communities, improve the economic security of its citizens, safeguard the state's spectacular natural resources, and restore the public's trust in government. Assistant and Special Assistant Attorneys General represent the people of Rhode Island in civil and criminal matters before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States. The Office is unique among attorneys general offices across the country. Out of fifty states, only two other offices share the same broad criminal mission. The Office's attorneys prosecute complex and violent crimes but also functionally serve as one of the nation's largest district attorney's offices, prosecuting all felonies throughout the state.

Civil Division: The Civil Division leads affirmative and defensive litigation on behalf of the state, counsels the Attorney General and other government officials, and performs a range of regulatory duties. From identifying and pursuing landmark civil actions against businesses and individuals that have harmed Rhode Islanders to defending state laws, state agencies, state general officers, legislators, and employees, the Division and its attorneys are at the forefront of matters being litigated before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States.

Public Protection Bureau: The Public Protection Bureau has been recently created within the Civil Division of the Attorney General's office and is comprised of four units – Healthcare, Consumer and Economic Justice, Environmental and Energy and Civil & Community Rights. Each of these units affirmatively develops legal work and initiatives by using the legal authority of the Office of Attorney General to advance and protect dignity, quality of life and equity for all Rhode Islanders. The Public Protection Bureau and each of its units also engage with community members and advocates to identify needed change and with thought partners to understand drivers of poverty and inequities within existing systems. Litigation and other initiatives are chosen based on understanding where change is needed and the relationship of evident needs to larger drivers of inequity, and are prioritized by evaluating the potential for impact.

Environmental and Energy Unit: The Environment and Energy Unit affirmatively develops legal work and initiatives by using the legal authority of the Office of Attorney General to advocate for policies and advance litigation that protect Rhode Islanders from the effects of climate change and environmental hazards generally, promote government accountability, respond to

disproportionate and inequitable environmental impacts borne by environmental justice communities, protect and preserve public access to Rhode Island's beaches and waterways and safeguard the State's natural resources for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders today and tomorrow.

The mission of the Environment and Energy Unit is to develop and lead high-impact, cutting-edge advocacy efforts in the environment and energy sectors to improve the quality of life for Rhode Islanders, counsel government officials on environmental and energy-related issues; intervene in legal agency actions where the public interest may be significantly affected by the outcome and provide oversight with respect to state and federal agencies' regulatory actions and responsibilities.

Duties and Opportunities:

The Office is seeking an attorney to work with leadership and partners in the Civil Division to set the course for the work of this Unit. The Unit Chief is expected to fulfill the following roles:

- Lead litigation and supervise the work of Unit attorneys in both State and Federal Courts.
- Anticipate and understand current and emerging environmental and energy issues and look for opportunities to engage around those issues to protect Rhode Islanders and advance the mission of the Unit.
- Maintain standards of quality legal work.
- Maintain communication with community members to identify need, understand impact and report about work, working with the Public Information Officer and the Director of Community Engagement.
- Engage Civil Division attorneys outside the Environmental and Energy Unit.
- Along with leadership in the RIAG, work with agency partners throughout State government.

In this role, the Special Assistant Attorney General will be responsible for assisting in identifying and investigating potential cases, prioritizing Environmental and Energy Unit affirmative work, case development, pre-trial litigation, negotiation, written and oral argument, trial work, and appeals.

Opportunities for Special Assistant Attorneys General in the Civil Division also include attending National Association of Attorney General trainings and conferences throughout the country, serving on state, local, federal, and/or non-profit boards, commissions, working groups, and/or task forces as a designee of the Attorney General, providing substantive expertise to legislative or policy initiatives, supervising student interns as part of the Office's legal internship program.

Eligibility:

The successful applicant must have a law degree from an accredited law school and be an active member in good standing of the bar of any jurisdiction. If not a member of the Rhode Island Bar, the candidate must be eligible for admission to the Rhode Island bar and prepared to sit for the bar exam.

Qualifications:

Eight to ten years of litigation experience is preferred. Strong candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law and experience in environmental law. The position of Environmental and Energy Chief will require leadership skills, an interest in creative legal thinking and a demonstrated ability to both envision and build on an organizational level. Candidates must have strong written/oral advocacy and negotiating skills and possess the capacity to function in a sometimes-high stress, demanding environment. Applicant must work well independently and as part of a team, including with other attorneys and support staff. Ability to work with other state government employees and communicate with members of the public is a must. Litigation experience in both state and federal court is preferred. The applicant should bring innovative thinking to the ways in which the Office of the Attorney General can consistently and increasingly meet the needs of Rhode Island residents.

The Attorney General's Office is stronger, more credible, and more capable when its attorneys bring diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to their work. The Office encourages all qualified applicants from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and persons with disabilities to apply.

How to Apply:

Applicants should email (1) a cover letter summarizing why you are interested and describing the skills and abilities you possess that will enable you to succeed in this position, (2) resume, (3) list of three references: and (4) a writing sample to:

Aida Crosson
Director of Administration
Office of the Attorney General
ACrosson@riag.ri.gov

by 11:59 p.m. on the closing date indicated above. Documents should be in Word or PDF format.

Other Information:

The selected applicant will be subject to a background investigation including reference checks.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, or covered veteran status.

This position becomes available August 30, 2021.