Post-Grad Law Fellowship, Water Quality & Justice

Madison, WI (or remote options possible) Midwest Environmental Advocates, which uses litigation, community organizing, and advocacy to fight for clean air, water, and open government in Wisconsin, is now accepting applications for candidates interested in seeking post-graduate legal fellowships funded through a law school or other sources to commence in the fall of 2021, although an earlier fellowship start date will be considered.

Our Work: MEA’s mission is to provide high quality legal services that support a diverse, grassroots social movement; build local leadership; and implement innovative solutions to environmental problems. The fellowship attorney will work closely with experienced MEA attorneys challenging polluting industrial and agricultural practices and advocating for cleaner infrastructure to ensure that all those who live in Wisconsin have access to clean water and healthy land and air. We work on behalf of the concerned public and use our legal expertise to ensure that their voices, particularly those from historically disadvantaged communities, are heard. One key aspect of the fellow’s work will be to strengthen our ongoing partnerships with tribal nations in Wisconsin, who share a strong interest in sustainable practices and whose sovereign and treaty rights have been impaired by ongoing and legacy contamination and by challenges to those rights from local, state, and federal entities. Our practice includes litigation and legal advocacy in two key areas. First, we work to require the promulgation of stringent and just environmental standards to address impacts of ongoing, legacy, and emerging contaminants that are polluting our environment from agriculture and other industries. Second, we bring permitting and enforcement actions to ensure that environmental standards are faithfully implemented. We advocate and litigate on behalf of tribal nations, environmental and public health-focused groups, and other individuals and groups who are directly harmed by environmental contamination. The fellow will work closely with staff attorneys and clients to develop and implement litigation and advocacy strategies, and will participate in the full range of tasks that arise during the course of the fellowship, such as preparing comments and testifying before local governments, agencies and the Wisconsin Legislature, and undertaking factual investigation, legal research, discovery, briefing, witness preparation, and oral advocacy.

Who We Are Looking For: MEA seeks highly qualified candidates who possess outstanding legal research and writing skills and are interested in working as a fellow for at least one year. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a commitment to the environment and to environmental justice. Our preferred location is our Madison office, although we will also consider applicants who have a proposal for remote work combined with the ability to periodically visit our Madison office or work on location within Wisconsin. Applicants should be third-year law students, judicial clerks, or other law school graduates who are eligible for post-graduate fellowships. Applicants must have a strong academic record, a sense of initiative and a capacity for hard work when needed, and sound judgment.
**Funding:** If offered a fellowship position at MEA, candidates are responsible for securing their own funding. Our past fellows have secured funding from a variety of sources, including Equal Justice Works or funding from their law schools. We would also welcome a candidate interested in pursuing a Skadden fellowship or other funding source, including from a law firm. Candidates should identify their intended source of funding, but we anticipate working with the fellow to develop and submit the funding application. Please note that deadlines for applying for third-party funding vary and may be as early as one year before the fellowship begins.

**Application information:** Please submit a short fellowship proposal (1-2 pages), resume, transcript, writing sample, and list of three references to advocate@midwestadvocates.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis but preference given to those who apply before July 15, 2020.