

Employer: Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia
Position Title: Assistant People’s Counsel (i.e., In-House Trial Attorney)
Salary: GS-13/14

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The position is located in the Litigation Services Division of the Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia. OPC is an independent agency of the District of Columbia government. By law, it is the advocate for natural gas, electric, and telephone consumers and ratepayers in the District. District of Columbia law designates OPC as a party to all utility-related proceedings before the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. OPC also represents the interests of District ratepayers and consumers before federal regulatory agencies, federal and state courts, Congress, the Council of the District of Columbia, and PJM Interconnection.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Case Management: In consultation with the Trial Supervisor, Director of Litigation, and the Deputy People’s Counsel, the incumbent manages assigned cases and matters related to proceedings involving complex, esoteric issues regarding the rates, terms, and conditions of service of natural gas, electric, and telephone utilities; analyzes complex legal issues affecting questions of law and fact and renders opinions on such issues; develops strategies for, and conducts in-depth, complex legal research on authorities and precedents on points of law; reviews and analyzes opposing parties’ pleadings and other position papers on controversial and complex issues; drafts detailed and complex documents; prepares and coordinates litigation including pretrial discovery, briefs, motions, technical reports and studies, cross-examination, expert testimony and oral arguments. Additionally, incumbent engages in and coordinates litigation—including pretrial discovery, briefs, motions, technical reports and studies, cross-examination, expert testimony and oral arguments; maintains familiarity with emerging public utility issues, cases, and legal developments; and provides the Trial Supervisor, Director of Litigation, Deputy People’s Counsel, and People’s Counsel a weekly report of case activity.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Possess a clear understanding of OPC’s mission and function.
- Excellent working knowledge of electric- and natural-gas utility regulatory principles. A general – working knowledge of telephone regulatory principles will be considered an added plus.
- Excellent knowledge of administrative law, rules of evidence, rules of civil procedure, and regulatory guidelines.
- Excellent ability to analyze and interpret complex data and to disseminate information.
- Excellent skill in persuasive oral and written communication.
- Excellent research, analytical, and evaluation skills.
- Excellent litigation skills, including skills related to discovery, motions practice, brief/pleading writing, and administrative litigation.
- Ability to recognize need for and to maintain confidentiality with respect to OPC

documents and client information.

- Ability to work with other staff in a team-oriented approach.
- Ability to interpret applicable laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines.
- Superior analytic, negotiation, and problem-solving abilities.
- Ability to make persuasive arguments to the legal community and the public.
- Possess excellent public speaking skills.
- Ability to work with all consumers and staff of government agencies, including the ability to listen and to relate to differing viewpoints.
- Knowledge of and the ability to work effectively in the community.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Must have strong academic and professional credentials and proven analytical skills. Three (3) to six (6) years of experience in civil or administrative law litigation, with an emphasis on natural-gas- and electric-utility rate regulation (preferred).

LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION

Certification of Good Standing from the District of Columbia Bar.

WORKING CONDITIONS/ENVIRONMENT

Work is performed in a typical office environment.

Promotion Potential

None

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTS

The incumbents of this position will be subject to enhanced suitability screening pursuant to Chapter 4 of DC personnel regulations, Suitability.

EEO Statement: The District of Columbia Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, physical handicap, or political affiliation.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position, please visit the District of Columbia Human Resources' website (<https://dchr.dc.gov>) and click "Careers".