Career Opportunity

Public Interest Attorney (Assistant Consumers’ Counsel)

The advocate for Ohio’s residential utility consumers, the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC or Agency), seeks a public interest attorney to work for protection of Ohio consumers regarding monopoly utility services and related issues. This is an excellent opportunity to help Ohioans, in a field dominated by powerful utility interests. Since the legislature created the agency in 1976, we have sought affordable utility bills and reliable utility service for residential consumers. These efforts have included advocacy and support for low-income Ohioans. The Agency has educated customers about choices available to them in a changing industry and about ways to save money on their utility bills.

The attorney will provide legal advice needed by management and the Agency director (the Consumers’ Counsel) for leading the Agency’s consumer protection role. The attorney will litigate and negotiate the Agency’s consumer issues in forums that principally include the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Other forums for consumer advocacy can include the Ohio Supreme Court, where the Agency brings appeals of regulatory decisions and defends against appeals taken by utilities and others, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Other services can include legislative advocacy, as utility regulation and consumer protection are set forth in Ohio law.

For consumer protection the attorney will need to understand utility regulation – that broadly involves rate-setting, service quality issues and policy matters such as favoring competitive markets over monopolies for providing services to consumers. The attorney will assist with retaining and functionally supervising consultants for this work. The attorney will need to work well within Agency teams and also be adept at independent work requiring personal initiative.

Salary negotiable within state government standards, commensurate with experience.

Minimum Qualifications:
The Assistant Consumers’ Counsel must have a license to practice law in the State of Ohio with a minimum of five (5) years or equivalent experience in public utility regulation. A working knowledge of law, rules, processes, utility regulation, and utility consumer issues is required. Excellence in persuasive writing is needed. Familiarity with word processing programs, online research and other technology used in legal advocacy is expected. A willingness to work more than forty hours per week as needed for consumer advocacy and a commitment to public service are expected.

Please apply for this position using the Ohio Hiring Management System (OHMS) link: Assistant Consumers’ Counsel Posting. Please include your resume, cover letter and salary requirements with your application. Applications will only be accepted via OHMS, without phone calls until June 19, 2020.