SPECIAL ASSISTANT PEOPLE'S COUNSEL (SAPC)

Department: Office of People's Counsel
Job Title: Special Assistant People's Counsel
$71,198 – $131,299, depending on experience
Employment Type: Full-Time
Location: Baltimore City
Telework Eligible: Yes (Hybrid)

DESCRIPTION:
The Office of People's Counsel ("OPC") is an independent Maryland State agency that advocates for Maryland's residential utility consumers. OPC represents the interests of residential customers of natural gas, electric, private water, and telecommunications utilities in proceedings before the Public Service Commission ("PSC"), federal regulatory agencies, and the courts. OPC works to ensure that utility service is reliable, safe, reasonably priced, and supportive of the State's environmental and climate goals.

OPC is seeking a mission-driven attorney to serve as a Special Assistant People's Counsel (SAPC). The position is a fellowship funded by the Vermont Law & Graduate School (VLGS). The SAPC Fellow will support OPC's statutory responsibility of protecting residential utility customers with particular attention to the agency's mandate to "consider the…environmental interests of the State and its residents, including the State's progress toward meeting its greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals."

Attorney work at OPC covers a spectrum of topic areas and skill sets, including energy law, economics, environmental policy, litigation, and public utility policy. The SAPC will focus on advocating for residential utility customers in matters that may include:

- Electricity transmission and plant retirement planning;
- The future of natural gas and gas infrastructure;
- Clean and renewable energy, including wind energy, solar energy, and renewable energy credits; and
- Electric vehicles and time-of-use rates.

OPC's work includes appearances before the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and State and federal appellate courts. We also participate in state and national-level policy initiatives regarding utility customers and new technologies—such as distributed resources, renewable generation, and electric vehicles.

The SAPC is a one-year fellowship position. We anticipate, but cannot guarantee, that it will be extended for at least an additional year, contingent on funding. The SAPC will be employed by Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS) and seconded to OPC. The SAPC will work out of the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, located in Baltimore City, as a hybrid teleworker—working a schedule that includes remote and in-office time.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Juris Doctor degree or an equivalent degree from an accredited school of law.
- Membership in the Maryland bar (can be forthcoming).

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Consumer protection and administrative litigation experience.
- Background in or familiarity with utility regulation, energy policy, and/or climate science.
- Experience in a government agency practicing law related to the regulation of public utilities.

HOW TO APPLY:
Candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to Sarah DeMaio, Chief Operating Officer via email at sarah.demaio@maryland.gov.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:
This position is eligible to receive benefits afforded to VLGS employees generally, including individual and family health insurance, vision, and dental insurance, disability insurance, and the ability to contribute to a retirement plan, as well as paid holidays, paid vacation, and sick leave per year.

Equal Opportunity Employer: As an equal opportunity employer, OPC will consider all qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, ethnicity, sex (including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression), pregnancy or related conditions, age, physical or mental disability, veteran or military status, genetic information or refusal to submit to a genetic test, citizenship status, marital status, HIV or AIDS status, or any other basis protected under applicable federal, state, or local law. Given the chronic underrepresentation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce nationwide, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates are also encouraged to apply.

Reasonable Accommodation: OPC is committed to providing access, equal opportunity, and reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. It is OPC's practice to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities in all aspects of the employment process. As such, OPC is prepared to modify or adjust the job application process or the job or work environment to make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of the applicant or employee to enable them to be considered for the position they desire, to perform the position's essential functions, and to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment, unless the accommodation will impose an undue hardship on OPC.

If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in the job application or interview process, or if you are a qualified individual with a disability and need assistance applying for **a** position, please contact Brandi Nieland, ADA Coordinator, brandi.nieland@maryland.gov. OPC will keep confidential any medical information obtained in connection to your request.