



Coastal States Organization Position Announcement

Legal Associate and Director of Coastal Resilience

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) is hiring an attorney to advise on ocean and coastal laws, and to lead CSO partnership efforts with federal agencies to promote coastal resilience. CSO is a small, 501 (c) 4 not-for-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1970. CSO represents the interests of the Governors of the nation's 35 coastal states and territories on legislative, regulatory, policy and program matters related to coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Organize and chair legal counsel meetings at Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- Produce written materials, advise CSO staff, leadership and members, and educate Congress about ocean and coastal laws and policies in conjunction with CSO strategies to address organizational priorities.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Serve as organization's issue expert on coastal resilience issues, including efforts to integrate federal agency activities in this area.
- Work with Executive Director, Board members, and Legislative Representative to identify legislative goals that advance states interests related to coastal resilience, and develop and implement legislative education strategies as appropriate.
- In consultation with Executive Director, strategically engage with other organizations, coalitions and federal agencies to help advance state coastal resilience priorities.
- Implement strategic partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), including (but not limited to): promoting state-federal cooperation via work with Regional Ocean Partnerships, USACE Silver Jackets and other entities; pursuing alternative coastal project funding mechanisms in conjunction with USACE Institute for Water Resources, coordinating state beach and inlet management activities with federal officials, identifying shared objectives and partnership opportunities to advance coastal priorities such as emergency response, beneficial use of dredged material, and natural & nature-based risk reduction strategies.
- Become familiar with the range of state approaches, planning policies, local ordinances and outreach strategies to help address the pre-disaster mitigation strategies and work to make them elements of a national coastal resilience strategy.
- Work with in consultation with CSO Legislative Representative to ensure that state Coastal Zone Management programs are components in any national sea level rise/climate change adaptation strategy.
- Work to advance CSO interests within Coalitions as assigned.

- In conjunction with CSO staff, workgroups and Executive Committee, identify legislative and policy mechanisms to achieve CSO coastal resilience objectives.
- Prepare and deliver presentations at coastal resilience conferences, briefings and workshops in order to advance CSO priorities.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Help plan and execute Executive Committee and biannual members meetings.
- Oversee and contribute to coastal issue-specific projects.
- Contribute to newsletter, website and social media content when appropriate.
- Facilitate issue-area work groups as assigned.
- Assist in development and implementation of CSO's strategic communications plan.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Substantive technical knowledge about the issues and policies of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including project planning and approval processes, floodplain and water resource management issues, and other relevant areas.
- At least 3 years of government relations experience in oceans, coast, natural resources, water resources, or related area.
- Law degree from an accredited U.S. Law School. Membership in state, DC, or Federal bar strongly desired.
- Experience and knowledge in federal agency affairs and advocacy, and ability to interact effectively with high level officials on emerging national issues.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills, including both written and oral presentations.
- Effective personal management style compatible with small office environment, including ability to coordinate and set priorities among multiple tasks, meet deadlines, and work as a team member on small or large tasks.
- Enthusiasm for the CSO mission and the strategic goals of the organization.
- Familiarity with the design and implementation of strategic communications plans.
- Substantive knowledge about the policies and procedures of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Willingness and ability to travel.
- A background in marine/coastal science, policy and/or engineering is highly desirable.
- Other desired qualities include a sense of humor, a commitment to public service, a high-energy level, strong persuasive skills, facilitation capabilities, and excellent organization and time management skills.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Salary will be based upon experience. Excellent benefits package includes 401(k), health, dental care and disability.

ANTICIPATED START DATE: JANUARY 2, 2013

TO APPLY:

Applications will be accepted until 5 PM EDT on Friday, November 22, 2013. However, applications will be considered on a rolling basis so please submit your materials as soon as possible. Please email cover letter, resume and salary expectations to:

[**jobs@coastalstates.org**](mailto:jobs@coastalstates.org)