positions: Internships with the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program

offices: Oakland, CA, Washington, DC, and Denver, CO

terms: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2020

hours: Spring/Fall: full- or part-time\(^1\) during the semester for 14 weeks
Summer: full-time for 10 weeks

credit: Academic credit available, depending on your school’s policy

funding: Sierra Club compensates eligible students $15/hour

deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis

description:

The Sierra Club is the nation’s leader in grassroots environmental litigation. Since *Sierra Club v. Morton*, the Sierra Club has used the courts to fight for environmental protection at the national, regional, and local levels, giving citizens the means and legal expertise to enforce our hard-won environmental laws and protect our water, air, and wilderness. The Sierra Club Environmental Law Program (ELP) develops and prosecutes the legal strategies for the Sierra Club’s nationwide grassroots campaigns, which focus on promoting smart energy solutions, building safe and healthy communities, and protecting the nation’s wild legacy. ELP leverages all of the Club’s tools of democracy by integrating legal advocacy with grassroots organizing, sophisticated communications, a state-of-the-art digital strategies team, and administrative lobbying. With the strength of our nation’s first, largest, and most powerful environmental organization, the whole truly is greater than the sum of its parts.

ELP attorneys are at the cutting edge of climate change litigation. We work with our allies to reduce the environmental and public health degradation that flows from the lifecycle of fossil fuel use, ranging from destructive mining and fracking to combustion to disposal. At the same time, we advocate for the expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. In the past few years alone, we have achieved tremendous public health and climate change benefits for many communities, including in particular for those engaged in environmental justice struggles.

\(^{1}\) We ask that part-time applicants commit to a minimum of 20 hours per week.
ELP seeks law students passionate about public interest environmental litigation to assist with our strategic lawsuits. Interns work on many aspects of litigation, including undertaking legal research, preparing written memoranda, and conducting factual investigation. During the course of the program, students typically work with several of the Club’s attorneys, thus gaining exposure to a wide range of litigation styles. Our interns are encouraged to participate during weekly legal team meetings where we discuss our dockets and strategy.

The Sierra Club’s vision is for its staff, volunteer leaders, members, and supporters to reflect the communities of our nation. The Sierra Club is committed to creating a culture in which all people feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate. Find out more about equity, inclusion, and justice at the Sierra Club: sierraclub.org/equity.

QUALIFICATIONS: We look for candidates with excellent writing, research, and analytical skills, as well as solid interpersonal skills. An environmental law background is preferable, but not a requirement.

TO APPLY: Please send a cover letter, resume, references, writing sample, and law school transcript\(^2\) to elp.applications@sierraclub.org, and specify your preferred office location.

In your cover letter, please address how your background has prepared you to contribute to the Sierra Club’s mission, including its commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and justice. Clearly indicate in your cover letter the office(s) and term(s) to which you are applying, as well as any office preferences and funding needs. Please compile electronic applications into one pdf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/

\(^2\) First-year students applying for summer internships should supply a transcript as soon as it becomes available and should indicate on their applications when grades are expected.