

Senior Legislative Representative, Toxics

Earthjustice

Washington, D.C.

EARTHJUSTICE | ISAACSON, MILLER

THE SEARCH

Earthjustice seeks a Senior Legislative Representative to lead its federal advocacy on industrial chemical pollution and toxics at the nation's premier nonprofit environmental law organization. The role sits within Earthjustice's Policy and Legislation (PAL) team in Washington, D.C., and reports to Ranjani Prabhakar, Legislative Director for Healthy Communities.

Few federal advocacy roles carry more consequence right now. Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency are reassessing key aspects of the nation's approach to chemical safety and pollution, while communities across the country continue to push for stronger protections from harmful exposures. Decisions made over the next several years will shape how federal law addresses industrial pollution, public health, and environmental justice for a generation.

Earthjustice brings a distinctive advantage to that fight: its lawyers are in court on the same issues its lobbyists carry to Congress and the agencies. The Senior Legislative Representative will turn that litigation into legislative and administrative leverage, serve as Earthjustice's public voice on toxics issues, and strengthen the coalitions of health, environmental justice, labor, and frontline community partners that give the work its reach.

The successful candidate will bring at least six years of federal legislative or agency advocacy, a command of the rulemaking process, trusted relationships with congressional committees and federal agency staff, and a record of moving policy in coalition. Earthjustice has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist in this search.

ABOUT EARTHJUSTICE

Founded in 1971 on the belief that everyone has the right to a healthy environment, Earthjustice is the nation's premier nonprofit environmental law organization. It wields the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, preserve magnificent places and wildlife, advance clean energy and combat climate change. Earthjustice serves hundreds of public-interest clients, providing top-tier legal representation free of charge, and it wins.

Today, Earthjustice fields 240 lawyers across 16 offices and carries 760 active legal cases. Headquartered in San Francisco, it has offices in Anchorage, Bozeman, Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Houston, Juneau, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C. Abigail Dillon has served as President since 2018, leading a period in which Earthjustice more than doubled its staff capacity.



Stephen St. John for Earthjustice

Earthjustice Action

In 2017, Earthjustice Action (EJA) was born as a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization. EJA fights in the halls of power where laws are written. While Earthjustice wields the law to improve our environment, Earthjustice Action builds the political power to strengthen those laws, create new ones, and educate the public about the importance of the courts to the environment. Its mission is to forge the partnerships, coalitions, and grassroots movements necessary to pass robust environmental legislation and ensure a fair and independent judiciary that will uphold environmental protections.

Policy and Legislation

The PAL team develops and carries out Earthjustice's legislative and administrative advocacy in Washington and in the states, led by Raul Garcia, Vice President of Policy and Legislation. PAL's lobbyists work side by side with litigators, communications strategists, and partner organizations. The Healthy Communities program defends and strengthens federal safeguards for clean air, clean water, and protection from toxic exposure, including pesticides and industrial chemicals.

ROLE OF THE SENIOR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/COUNSEL

The Senior Legislative Representative will provide legislative and administrative strategy development and implementation on issues related to a range of federal toxics policies, with a primary focus on government and corporate accountability, and protecting communities from industrial chemical pollution and harmful chemical exposures. This position will report to the Legislative Director of Healthy Communities.

The position directly interfaces with relevant congressional offices, committees, and staff, executive branch offices, and other related offices and entities. This will be hybrid from the Washington, D.C., office twice/weekly.

*Please note, candidates with a JD will receive the title of Sr. Legislative Counsel.

Lobby Strategy Development and Implementation (60%)

- Develop and implement legislative and administrative advocacy strategies relating to federal toxics policies.
- Directly lobby Congress and the Administration.
- Educate the Administration and Congress on key legal challenges and rulings.
- Serve as spokesperson for Earthjustice on areas of expertise. Track legislation and policy initiatives relating to assigned issues.
- Work with the Legislative Director and, as warranted, internal issue area experts to develop positions and strategies on relevant legislation and administrative actions.
- Work with relevant litigation staff when developing and implementing legislative and administrative advocacy strategies and positions that are related to the practice areas.
- Develop lobby and education materials, including but not limited to fact sheets, letters, action alerts and blogs.
- Work with Communications Department to develop media strategies and conducts media outreach and the creation of social media, blogs and op-eds and other strategic communications tools.

- Perform policy, legislative and legal analysis.
- Plan and implement initiatives to educate the public and foster broader public advocacy for assigned issues.
- Develop, maintain and expand trusting relationships with staff of key decision makers.

Coalition and Partnerships (20-30%)

- Create and maintain a leadership position within the DC environmental community working on federal toxics policies, as well as with regional and local environmental and social justice communities as appropriate.
- Represent Earthjustice in coalitions and with allies.
- Create opportunities for partners and allies to engage in education and advocacy and to be engaged in strategy development as appropriate.
- Cultivate and expand the range of allies, thoughtful partnerships and coalitions in support of assigned issues.
- Facilitate and encourage relationships between litigators and advocacy partners as appropriate.
- Coordinate briefings, seminars, and informational sessions with partners as well as support partners traditional and social media outreach as appropriate.
- Plan and execute events such as fly-ins, lobby days, etc.
- Other duties as assigned.

Internal Coordination/Administration (15%)

- Represent PAL on Earthjustice working groups related to assigned issues.
- Liaise with Earthjustice Legislative Director, relevant litigators, and communications staff working on assigned issues.
- Act as a team player, including assisting other PAL lobbyists when pressed to complete actions pertaining to their assigned issues.
- Coordinate with other PAL lobbyists on shared legislation or cross-cutting issues.
- Ensure PAL V.P., Legislative Director and other PAL lobbyists are aware of the work you are doing that may impact them, for coordination, etc.
- Contribute to Earthjustice's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) mission through involvement in trainings and internal working groups.
- Ensure timely submission of attendance, time accounting and reimbursement requests.
- Participate and contribute to strategy meetings regarding possible or pending litigation bound to impact advocacy efforts on covered issues.
- Assist in efforts to cultivate diversity, equity and inclusion within the organization and the broader environmental community.

*A Senior Legislative Representative/Counsel will also have the following responsibilities:

- Manage and coordinate relationships between litigators and advocacy partners as appropriate.
- Assist in fundraising efforts related to assigned issue areas as requested by the Earthjustice Development Department.

Supervision (5%, potential future supervision 10%)

- Supervise projects and other efforts performed on assigned issues by Earthjustice Legislative Counsels, Representatives, Associates, Assistants, Interns or contractors.
- Senior Legislative Representative/ Counsel may be assigned direct supervisory responsibility for one employee.

QUALIFICATIONS

Earthjustice seeks candidates with the following experience and attributes:

- 6+ years' experience in the legislative or federal agency advocacy process.
- Master's degree or equivalent experience. Candidates with JD will receive the title Sr. Legislative Counsel.
- Substantial knowledge and experience with administrative rulemaking process.
- Substantial knowledge with legislative process at the federal level.
- Substantial professional working relationships with relevant congressional committees, key staff of relevant federal agencies and departments, and other regulatory bodies.
- Familiarity and experience with administrative rulemaking process.
- Substantial knowledge of, and experience with, the legislative process primarily at the federal level.
- Experience with U.S. environmental and/or energy laws a plus.
- Proven ability to develop and implement successful legislative and administrative strategies and implement public education initiatives.
- Maintain leadership within D.C. environmental community on assigned issues.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, projects and deadlines.
- Detail oriented and good organizational skills.
- Excellent writing and oral communication skills.
- Proven ability to work in coalitions and with allies and ability to grow these relationships.
- Significant experience working with traditional and social media.
- Proven ability to work independently and proactively.
- Demonstrates an awareness and sensitivity to the needs and concerns of individuals from diverse cultures, backgrounds and orientations.
- Contributes to recruiting, hiring, developing and retaining a diverse and inclusive workforce.

LOCATION AND COMPENSATION

The position is based in Washington, D.C., on a hybrid schedule with two days a week in the office. The salary range in Washington, D.C. is $140,000 to $155,500, depending on experience. Earthjustice offers a mission-driven workplace and an excellent benefits package. As a 501(c)(3) organization, Earthjustice is a qualifying employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the search is complete. Electronic submission of a résumé and cover letter is strongly encouraged. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be sent in confidence to:

Jack Gorman, Managing Partner and Practice Leader
Grace Zakim, Managing Associate
Isaacson, Miller
https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/earthjustice/senior-legislative-representative

As an equal opportunity employer, Earthjustice is committed to employment practices that ensure that employees and applicants for employment are provided with equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or any other factor that is not related to the position.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Earthjustice. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Earthjustice would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

ADDENDUM: EARTHJUSTICE LEADERSHIP



Melissa Lyttle for Earthjustice

Abigail Dillen, President

Abigail Dillen is President of Earthjustice and of its partner organization, Earthjustice Action. Before her selection by the Earthjustice board in 2018, she served as the organization's first Vice President of Litigation for Climate and Energy, directing its legal and advocacy strategy to advance climate solutions and the transition to clean energy. As President she has led Earthjustice through a period of unprecedented growth, more than doubling its staff capacity. She is admitted to the bars of Montana, New York and California.

Ranjani Prabhakar, Legislative Director, Healthy Communities

Ranjani Prabhakar has served as Legislative Director for Healthy Communities in Earthjustice's Policy and Legislation department since September 2023. She leads a team of advocates dedicated to defending and improving federal safeguards for clean air, clean water and protection from toxic exposure, and is a leading Earthjustice voice on the Farm Bill. She previously served as a Senior Legislative Representative in PAL, focused on sustainable food and farming, where she led Earthjustice's policy platform on the 2023 Farm Bill and developed legislative and partnership strategies for a just, equitable and climate-focused agriculture system.

Before joining Earthjustice, Ms. Prabhakar served on the mayor's policy team in Chicago under Mayors Rahm Emanuel and Lori Lightfoot, where she launched the city's first community solar initiative, a renewable energy challenge program and a micro-mobility pilot. A city planner by training, she has worked in transportation, economic development and housing justice, and taught a practicum on climate problem-solving in public service as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University. She is also the founder of the Mycelia Arts Lab, an incubator for climate storytelling.