**OCEAN ADVOCATE**

**General Summary**

Oceana is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the world’s oceans. Oceana’s campaigns are directed at achieving measurable improvements in public policy. The ocean advocate reports to Oceana’s senior director for federal policy and will focus primarily Oceana’s campaign to stop offshore drilling, which is currently focused on stopping the expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and defending the existing moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico.

The ocean advocate leads the campaign’s federal advocacy with Congress and the executive branch, under direction of the campaign director, and working closely with the field, communications, science, legal, and development teams. The ocean advocate may also assist with other campaigns, and in fulfilling other organizational objectives. The position is based in Washington, D.C. Occasional travel is required.

**Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

**Essential Functions:**

* Lead Oceana’s government relations activities related to Oceana’s offshore drilling campaign, under the direction of its campaign director and the senior director for federal policy.
* Persuasively represent Oceana positions and campaign goals to Congress, the Administration, federal agency officials, and other policymakers. Develop extensive contacts in Congress and the executive branch.
* Analyze federal legislative proposals and executive branch actions and government reports.
* Work with Oceana’s offshore drilling team and other staff to develop strategies to achieve campaign goals.
* Work with all Oceana teams (field, communications, science, legal, development, organizational services, and international offices) to promote organizational priorities and objectives.
* Create advocacy and public documents (fact sheets, draft congressional letters, public comment letters, backgrounders, action alerts, and reports) in support of Oceana goals and projects.
* Collaborate with communications staff in development of media outreach opportunities and represent Oceana to various media outlets as an expert on energy and ocean policy as needed.
* Collaborate with the campaign director and field team to develop field mobilization strategies to influence decision makers in key states and districts.
* Take a leadership role in the coalition of NGO lobbyists fighting expanded offshore oil and gas drilling; develop and implement coalition strategies that support Oceana’s campaign goals in Congress and the administration.
* Assist senior director for federal policy with other Defense Campaign activities as available and as needed.
* Assist senior director for federal policy and legal staff with lobbying compliance and disclosure.
* Participate in the hiring and supervision of interns.
* Assist in preparing formal comments for rulemakings and other federal agency actions.
* Assist legal staff in developing potential cases for legal action and in implementing strategies to support litigation.
* Undertake additional projects as requested by senior staff and perform other duties as needed or assigned.

**Job Requirements**

**Education and work experience:**

* Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in political science, public policy, conservation biology, marine affairs or a related discipline. Master’s degree preferred.
* Three to five years of government relations, advocacy, or legislative experience, preferably at the federal level and preferably on energy or ocean conservation issues.

**Skills and knowledge:**

* Knowledge of the federal policy-making process in Congress and the executive branch.
* Ability and desire to advocate for complex, aggressive conservation positions in a variety of settings, from one-on-one meetings to presentations at large briefings and conferences.
* Display high degree of judgment, discretion and confidentiality with sensitive information while working with coalitions and other partners to accomplish Oceana’s goals.
* Experience developing and implementing legislative strategies to win campaigns, including developing messages and talking points, targeting, development of written materials, and experience with paid and earned media.
* Strong writing skills and ability to write for different audiences ranging from Oceana’s blog to congressional testimony.
* Strong oral and written communication skills and keen analytical ability.
* Experience working to meet tight deadlines, completing unexpected projects, and effectively managing a demanding work load.
* Ability to take initiative by suggesting ways to augment the work and responsibilities of the position to accomplish Oceana’s goals.
* Strong social media skills including extensive knowledge of Facebook and Twitter.
* Computer literacy, particularly with Microsoft Office applications.
* Flexibility to occasionally work long hours.

***The above declarations are not intended to be an “all inclusive” list of duties and responsibilities of the job described, nor are they intended to be such a listing of the skills and abilities required to do the job. Rather, they are intended only to describe the general nature of the job, and are a reasonable representation of its activities.***