

Company: Gateway Development Commission

Job Title: General Counsel

Location: New York/New Jersey

Date: June 12, 2024

Job ID: 9-002

Summary of Responsibilities

The Gateway Development Commission is seeking an accomplished and dynamic attorney to serve as General Counsel for the Gateway Development Commission (GDC). The General Counsel will play a pivotal role in providing legal counsel and strategic guidance. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the General Counsel ensures that the Gateway Development Commission receives comprehensive legal advice across a spectrum of sophisticated matters.

Essential Functions

- Providing expert and strategic legal advice to all levels of management.
- Evaluating and judging the merits of litigation filed against or on behalf of the Commission, working with the appropriate executive(s) to define a strategic defense and approving settlements of disputes, where warranted.
- Overseeing outside counsel retained to represent the Commission's interests, including engaging and retaining counsel, assigning matters to counsel, setting legal policy and strategy, reviewing invoices, and approving settlements.
- Monitoring and regularly reviewing legislative and regulatory changes.
- Setting internal governance policies and managing the impact of external factors.
- Evaluating and weighing multiple inputs and impacts of any decision or course of action.
- Anticipating issues and estimating risks strategically.
- Identifying proactive solutions that will eliminate or mitigate risks while making decisions or establishing processes with the highest ethics and integrity.
- Interacting with external entities (e.g., regulators, external counsel, other governmental agencies, not limited to FRA, FTA, etc.).
- Structuring and managing the Commission's internal legal function and staff.
- Overseeing and participating in labor negotiations.
- Reviewing and approving all real estate transactions, proposals, and contracts.
- Managing and performing specific legal research, fact-finding activities, and investigations as deemed appropriate.

- Ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations by regulators, local, state, and federal authorities.
- Reviewing and providing guidance on corporate-wide policies and procedures consistent with Federal and State laws.

Job Requirements

- Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school. Admitted to practice law in New Jersey and/or New York.
- A minimum of ten (10) years or more of relevant experience practicing law.
- Proven track record of providing expert and strategic legal advice to all levels of management.
- Previous experience in structuring and managing an internal legal function and staff.
- Ability to review and provide guidance on corporate-wide policies and procedures consistent with Federal and State laws.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to convey complex legal concepts to a diverse audience.
- Flexibility and adaptability to work in a fast-paced and dynamic environment.
- Strong leadership skills with the ability to lead and collaborate with a legal team effectively.

Project Background

The Gateway Program is the most urgent infrastructure program in the country – a comprehensive set of rail investments that will improve commuter and intercity services, add needed resiliency and, in its later stages, create new capacity between Newark, New Jersey and New York City, the busiest section of the Northeast Corridor (NEC). The NEC between Boston, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. is the nation’s busiest rail corridor, supporting a region that produces 20% of the Gross National Product. The 10-mile segment of the NEC within the scope of the Gateway Program carries over 200,000 daily Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT passenger trips on approximately 450 trains during non-pandemic conditions and is a vital artery in the region.

The first phase of the Gateway Program includes the Hudson Tunnel Project, which includes the construction of a new two-track tunnel under the Hudson River connecting to Penn Station New York as well as the full rehabilitation of the existing 110 year-old North River Tunnel. The project would create operational flexibility, rail network redundancy, and resiliency against future impacts to the Hudson River rail crossing. Environmental review for the project was completed in May 2021.

The Gateway Development Commission, established through bi-state legislation, is responsible for the financing and development of the Hudson Tunnel Project. The Commission is governed by a Board of 7 Commissioners appointed by each of Amtrak, New Jersey, and the New York State Department of Transportation, and works in partnership with Amtrak, NJ TRANSIT and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Gateway Development Commission is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer and administers all personnel practices without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, protected veteran status or military status, or any other category protected under applicable law. We encourage qualified people from all backgrounds to apply.

Attention all applicants who have applied for the Deputy General Counsel position! We will be considering your resume for the General Counsel (Job ID: 9-002) position, provided you meet the minimum qualifications required for the role!

To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to jobs@gatewayprogram.org with the job title "General Counsel" in the subject line.