



# **Position Specification**

Environmental Law Institute

President

## Our Client

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) makes law work for people, places, and the planet.

Since 1969, ELI has played a pivotal role in shaping the fields of environmental law, policy, and management, domestically and abroad. It is an internationally recognized, nonpartisan research and education center working to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

ELI delivers insightful and impartial analysis to opinion makers, including government officials, environmental and business leaders, academics, members of the environmental bar, and journalists. It is a clearinghouse and a town hall, providing common ground for debate on important environmental issues.

*The Institute's role takes many forms:*

**Developing Law and Policy:** From drafting landmark ocean management regulations for Antigua and Barbuda, to helping rebuild the legal framework for forestry in Liberia in the wake of a civil war fueled by conflict timber, ELI works with our partners to create practical, implementable laws and policies, learning from the experiences of others but tailored to the circumstances and needs of the local communities. ELI engages with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other international organizations to strengthen law for environmental stewardship globally.

**Educating Professionals and the Public:** Across the U.S. and the globe, ELI teaches people about the law, procedures, reliance on the environmental sciences, public rights and strategies for change. It is training judges around the world on critical topics in domestic and international environmental law and informing communities dependent on the Gulf of Mexico on how to influence the restoration and recovery process. It educates thousands of environmental professionals each year in the United States, with the conviction that more skilled environmental professionals result in better environmental outcomes. The ultimate goal is to help people improve the implementation of environmental and natural resource law globally.

**Providing Objective Data and Analysis:** ELI fills voids in collective understanding and informs the most critical environmental decisions of the day, from comparing U.S. Government subsidies to fossil and renewable fuels, to researching and describing a path for transatlantic cooperation on the regulation of nanotechnologies. In order to ensure a better-informed dialogue leveraging scientific and technical knowledge, and common sources of good information, ELI also makes collections of hard-to-find resources accessible to everyone involved in some of the most significant environmental challenges. It

publishes cutting-edge authors and their proposals to innovate for better environmental law and policy solutions.

**Convening Diverse Groups to Solve Problems:** ELI puts the right people in a room together with a clear objective, strong preparation, and quality facilitation. For example, it convenes scientists and journalists to work through the challenges of reporting on climate change data and brings together state and local public health officials from across the country to identify solutions to indoor environmental quality problems. Across the spectrum of its work, ELI's analysis includes a focus on the environmental justice implications of problems and potential solutions. ELI convenes professionals representing divergent perspectives on important policy questions to build bridges, foster common understanding, and explore areas of ultimate agreement.

The Institute is based in Washington, DC and is governed by a Board of Directors who represent a diverse mix of leaders within the environmental profession and others who support strengthening environmental law and policy. Support for the Institute comes from individuals, foundations, government, corporations, law firms, and other sources.

## **The Role**

ELI envisions a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law, good governance, and sound science. It now seeks its next President to fulfill its mission in fostering innovative, just, and practical law and policy solutions to enable leaders across borders and sectors to make environmental, economic, and social progress today and into the future. ELI acknowledges that global environmental degradation is escalating, and its expertise will be increasingly in demand ([www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature](http://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature)), including addressing how environmental justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are integral to all decision-making.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the President has ultimate responsibility and is accountable for management of the strategic, programmatic, and financial operations of the organization. In collaboration with the Board of Directors, the President will play an instrumental role in broadening the organization's influence and impact on environmental law and policy – building on ELI's strengths and enhancing global governance.

The President will partner with expert staff to plan, develop, and maintain high quality educational programs and ELI publications.

### *The President will:*

- Provide strategic vision and leadership for the continued development of ELI's financial support, membership, and organization.
- Develop collaboration with scientific and technological institutions to strengthen the role of environmental sciences in legal and policy decision-making.
- Lead ELI in prioritizing, cultivating, and implementing a program that supports its vision, mission, and policy objectives worldwide, all in furtherance of enhancing ELI's stature and effectiveness.

- Work closely and collaboratively with the Board of Directors and membership to benefit from their experience and expertise and to encourage their support for and involvement in ELI's activities.
- Provide intellectual leadership and foster research and analysis on complex and pressing environmental challenges while encouraging creativity and innovation among a capable staff and committed and diverse constituency.
- Amplify and enhance the institutional communication of ELI's mission, activity, and results to wide audiences of interest, including skilled use across all forms of media.
- Convene leaders across industry, legal, regulatory, nonprofit, and academic sectors to exchange best practices, enhance understanding through robust debate, and ultimately build the skills and capacity of tomorrow's leaders and institutions.

## Candidate Profile

The President of ELI will demonstrate capacity for leadership through vision, communication, inspiration, and expertise. The ideal candidate will be an experienced and respected leader in the nonprofit, legal, corporate, academic, or public sectors who brings strong operational management capacity, intellectual breadth and rigor, external convening power, resource development acumen, and practical experience to ELI.

The President will be a confident, credible, and motivational leader, capable of energizing and informing ELI's membership during a time of great change and opportunity. The successful candidate should be skilled in managing an organization of similar scale and have experience working closely with a Board of Directors, high-level staff, prominent stakeholders, and other constituents to achieve organizational objectives in a fiscally responsible and effective manner.

It is preferred that this individual have a background in environmental law and a track record that offers significant credibility to the various stakeholders of ELI, including experience ensuring that public policy debates and decision-making are informed by scientific and technological assessments. The individual should have a demonstrated commitment to developing strategies and programs that enhance national and global environmental governance and a sophisticated understanding of the complexity of issues surrounding these areas.

The candidate should be someone who can listen to and learn from key stakeholders both inside and outside of the organization. This individual should have the capacity to foster constructive and transparent dialogue and collaboration among constituents, at times on opposing sides of sensitive issues, while respecting the history and mission of ELI and its members.

*Personal competencies required for the position:*

**Credibility and Experience:** The candidate should have deep and substantive knowledge of how the legal, political, public policy, scientific, and advocacy apparatus function in Washington, D.C., in states

throughout the U.S., and in global policy centers. The candidate should have a presence and credibility in Washington and/or the national and international environmental profession, should be highly respected and have the ability to collaborate with stakeholders from both sides of the political aisle and with all branches of government. Regardless of political background, they need to represent a nonpartisan organization while demonstrating the ability to cultivate strong relationships with all key external constituencies and policy makers.

**Strategic Vision:** The successful candidate will further develop ELI as a dynamic organization while providing vision and focus. ELI represents a highly motivated organization with multiple activities occurring simultaneously and on a variety of issues, with a unique combination of professional staff, allies, board members, donors, and members. The President must inspire, motivate, support, and honor these multiple constituencies to advance the mission of ELI through membership value creation, external representation, publications, social media platforms, and convening power. They will be entrepreneurial, able to adapt and think about new and different approaches for driving impact.

**Leadership and Management:** Along with the board and management team, ELI's next President will be able to set strategic direction for the organization, prioritize and define clear goals for staff, encourage entrepreneurial initiatives, and delegate implementation to ensure that deliverables are met. The candidate should foster a culture of engagement and empowerment, convening and leading to achieve excellence. The candidate should have the ability to set priorities decisively, delegate responsibilities, assure accountability and allocate resources to ensure results.

**Communication and Development Skills:** The successful candidate will be a charismatic, persuasive communicator and a strong public speaker who can articulate ELI's vision through various media formats. ELI continues to grow and diversify its base of support and membership, which has been and will continue to be essential in expanding its impact. The new President will be central to ELI's resource development efforts. The President will ensure that ELI continually expands its global, multisectoral, nonpartisan reach, relevance, and revenue.

**Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** The successful candidate will bring a deep, personal commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion that will enable them to traverse ELI and its ecosystem of influence in authentic ways. They will bring the gravitas and proven ability to galvanize others into action around building more diverse, inclusive, and equitable communities, and a commitment to environmental justice. They will bring experience translating an organization's diversity and inclusion commitments into specific strategic and programmatic outcomes.

**Judgment:** The successful candidate will need to readily master the organizational and political environment and must have the intellectual capacity to think critically and strategically, especially now as environmental crises are perceived as becoming more severe. They will be able to make timely and wise decisions and take appropriate risks to achieve results. Likewise, they will be thoughtful about deploying ELI resources to maximize outcomes aligned with strategic plans and core institutional values. They will listen to and learn from key stakeholders inside and outside of the organization and will be an inclusive and independent thinker who can manage ambiguity and devise solutions even when a clear path is not evident.

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**Position Specification**

Ref: President  
Environmental Law Institute

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**Contact**

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