EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO:

R3_VaccaroFellow@epa.gov

Applications that are submitted via email should be submitted in PDF format. Email submissions should include “2017 Vaccaro Fellowship Application” in the subject line.

Once your application is received, you will receive an automated response. Please do not reply to this email. Questions regarding the Fellowship should be directed to Donzetta W. Thomas, Vaccaro Fellowship Coordinator at (215) 814-2474.

"My experience as a Vaccaro Fellow provided the perfect mix of guidance and independence which allowed me to grow as an attorney. While at EPA Region 3, my practice of law was shaped by my coworker's ability to merge passion with professionalism. I truly enjoyed my time there." Leigh Rende (2006-2008), USDOJ

"I loved working at Region III, and found the fellowship to be incredibly rewarding. Working in the Waste and Chemical Law Brach, I was almost immediately responsible for managing numerous enforcement cases as the lead attorney. It is rare to be given so much autonomy and responsibility so early in your legal career, and it was very exciting. I also always knew that, if I needed assistance or advice, I was supported by senior level attorneys with decades of experience to draw upon. I would recommend the fellowship to any aspiring environmental attorney." Brianna Fairbanks (2007-2009), Associate Attorney, Sierra Club.

EPA is an equal opportunity employer. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or other differences. EPA encourages people of color to apply.

PUBLIC HEALTH MISSION

Our mission is as big as the outdoors. The Philadelphia regional office protects public health and the environment by enforcing federal environmental laws throughout the mid-Atlantic states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our jurisdiction includes environments as diverse as urban waterways such as D.C.’s Anacostia and Potomac rivers; the forested Allegheny Mountains; West Virginia’s coal country; the Chesapeake Bay; and current and former industrial sites throughout the region.

EPA works closely with state and local governments, citizens, environmental groups, and regulated industries to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Superfund statute, and laws regulating hazardous waste, toxic chemicals, and pesticides. EPA is involved both in public health emergencies (e.g., Hurricane Katrina response, BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, lead in Flint, MI drinking water), and in day-to-day environmental issues such as cleanups of Superfund hazardous waste sites; reducing pollution of stormwater runoff; and enforcing air and water quality standards throughout the U.S.

Michael F. Vaccaro, EPA’s former Deputy Regional Counsel, died on Earth Day, April 22, 1996. He was a widely respected public servant with an unwavering commitment to good government. He was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. He began working at EPA in 1973. His legacy lives on in the work of the Vaccaro Fellows.

www.epa.gov/region3/vaccaro.htm
OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL

EPA Attorneys are involved in nearly all aspects of the Agency’s mission, including administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement of environmental laws; drafting and interpreting EPA regulations, policy and guidance; oversight of state environmental agencies; and counseling on government contracts and grants, bankruptcy, employment, corporations, and real property. For example, attorneys at EPA Region III have recently worked on a wide variety of matters, including:

- Federal court actions against several coal companies for chronic Clean Water Act violations, resulting in multi-million dollar settlements with extensive injunctive relief;
- Superfund cleanups of contaminated industrial areas, including cleanups of unused urban “brownfields,” returning this property to productive use for the benefit of the community;
- Working with Baltimore, D.C., Pittsburgh, and other cities to develop multi-year, multi-million dollar programs to end the discharge of untreated sewage overflows into waterways;
- Criminal prosecution of demolition contractors who flout Clean Air Act asbestos regulations, endangering the public and their own employees;
- Administrative litigation against landlords for failing to notify tenants with small children about lead paint hazards.

FELLOWSHIP

The Michael F. Vaccaro Honors Attorney Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to practice law in a major governmental environmental organization and to receive extensive training in and exposure to environmental law and policy work in the public sector.

The U.S. EPA, Region III Michael F. Vaccaro Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens with excellent academic credentials, a strong interest in an environmental or public sector law career. Applications will be accepted from:

- current third year law students at an accredited law school, or
- recent graduates from an accredited law school, or
- current judicial clerks (one to two years out of an accredited law school)

Law school graduates who have been employed as an attorney will not be considered.

The Fellow is expected to commit to a two-year term.

The salary will be at the GS-11 level (currently starting at $63,323) or, in unusual circumstances where appropriate qualifications exist, at the GS-12 level (currently starting at $75,900).

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Beginning on September 16, 2016, Region III will begin accepting applications for the 2017 Vaccaro Fellowship. Applications will be accepted through October 17, 2016.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply early and submit the following:

1. a resume, listing significant accomplishments, work experience, class rank (or equivalent indicator of academic performance) and day and evening telephone numbers;
2. an unofficial transcript of law school grades (official transcript must be provided at time of interview);
3. a cover letter explaining the applicant’s interest in the Fellowship;
4. a writing sample; and
5. the name, address, and telephone number of three references. Included should be a current/former employer and a law school professor or advisor.

Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in Philadelphia (at the candidate’s expense). Upon request, interviews may be conducted via video-conference. Interviews will be scheduled over a 2-3 week period, beginning in mid-November 2016.

Michael F. Vaccaro Fellows have hailed from: Boston Univ., Univ. of Colorado, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Howard, University of Maryland, Northwestern, University of Oregon, Pace, Rutgers Univ., Temple, Tulane, Vermont, and Villanova.