

GENERAL ATTORNEY – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General Counsel

Job details

Salary:

GS11-14 (\$72,750-\$159,286)

Appointment Type: Excepted Service

Job Type: Full-time

Full Job Description

Summary:

If selected, you will serve as a general attorney in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of General Counsel (OGC), Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Litigation Group (CALG). The mission of OGC CALG is to represent VA in all litigation before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), a Federal appellate court, and to provide legal advice and services to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and all organizational components of the Department (e.g., the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration). Duties include record review, case development, research, legal writing, and oral advocacy. Strong analytical and organization skills, as well as excellent communication and writing skills are required.

Responsibilities:

You will be responsible for:

- Researching and interpreting statutory and regulatory language.
- Drafting and filing legal pleadings.
- Negotiating with opposing counsel and other representatives.
- Managing your own caseload.
- Presenting oral argument before a Federal appellate court.

Promotion Potential: The selectee may be promoted to the full performance level without further competition when all regulatory, qualification, and performance requirements are met. While entry levels vary based on experience, promotion opportunities will be to the GS-14 level for journeyman positions, and to the GS-15 level for a limited number of subject matter expert positions.

Work Schedule: Monday through Friday. Compressed / flexible work schedule available consistent with VA and OGC policies.

Telework: Consistent with VA, OGC, and CALG Policies. Full-time telework is currently authorized due to COVID-19. This is **not** a virtual position.

Worksite Location: Washington DC – NOMA neighborhood

Relocation/Recruitment Incentives: Not Authorized

Travel Required: Rarely required

Conditions of Employment:

- Designated and/or random drug testing may be required
- Selective Service Registration is required for males born after 12/31/1959
- You may be required to serve a probationary period
- Subject to background/security investigation
- Selected applicants will be required to complete an online onboarding process

Bar Membership Requirements: Currently an active member in good standing of the bar of a state, territory of the United States, District of Columbia, or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Citizenship: Be citizens of, or owe allegiance to, the United States.

Education: Successful completion of a full course of study (JD) in a school of law accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

Physical Requirements: The work is basically sedentary but involves some lifting and carrying of documents and other light items. Regular and recurring work is performed sitting at a desk. No special physical demands are required to perform the work.

For more information on these qualification standards, please visit the United States Office of Personnel Management's website at <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/>.

Special Employment Consideration: VA encourages persons with disabilities to apply, including those eligible for hiring under 5 CFR 213.3102(u), Schedule A, Appointment of persons with disabilities [i.e., intellectual disabilities, severe physical disabilities, or psychiatric disabilities], and/or Disabled veterans with a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more. Contact the Agency Contact for information on how to apply under this appointment authority via the Selective Placement Coordinator.

Veterans and Transitioning Service Members: Please visit the VA for Vets site for career-search tools for Veterans seeking employment at VA, career development services for our existing Veterans, and coaching and reintegration support for military service members.

For more information on the "Who may apply" eligibility requirements, please refer to the OHRM Status Candidates and Other Candidate Definitions document.

How You Will Be Evaluated: You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above. All applicants will be reviewed based on their resume, writing sample, and, if selected, an interview process.

Required Documents

The following documents may be required if applicable to your eligibility and/or qualifications for this position.

- **Cover Letter:** Please provide a 1-2 page cover letter which discusses your interest in the position; your pertinent knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience; and your personal characteristics and competencies that qualify you for the position as detailed in this announcement.
- **Resume:** Your resume must include:
 - Full name
 - Home address

- Email address where you can be reached
 - Phone number(s) where we can contact you
 - Name of your law school, year of graduation, and the year you were admitted to the bar
 - Any additional education, training, awards you received
 - Relevant work experience that includes: job title, duties, employer's name, employer's telephone number, employer's location, starting and ending dates (MM/YY). Please indicate whether we may contact your current supervisor.
- **Writing Sample:** A writing sample demonstrating your legal analytical abilities must be submitted as part of your application package, for which you must be the principal author. It should not exceed 10 double-spaced pages.
 - **Last performance appraisal:** If you have one, please be prepared to provide your last performance appraisal at the interview.
 - **Proof of licensure:** A current certificate of good standing will be required if selected.

How to Apply

To apply, email your cover letter, resume, and writing sample to ogc027hirings@va.gov no later than Friday, **April 30, 2021**. While submissions will be accepted after that date on a rolling basis, applications received on or before that date will be considered under current hiring authority.