

Assistant Attorney General - Torts Division in Olympia

Salary

Depends on Qualifications

Location

Thurston County – Olympia, WA

Job Type

Exempt

Department

Attorney General's Office

Job Number

2019-00016

Closing

1/21/2019 11:59 PM Pacific

- DESCRIPTION
- BENEFITS
- QUESTIONS

Description

Persons requiring reasonable accommodation in the application and/or interview process. may contact Tracy Robinson at 360-586-7693. For those who are hearing impaired and need assistance, please contact the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-676-3777 or [www.washingtonrelay](http://www.washingtonrelay.com)

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) is the chief legal officer for the state of Washington, serving more than 230 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges and universities, as well as the Legislature and the Governor. In furtherance of its mission to deliver the highest quality professional legal services to officials, agencies, and people of the state of Washington, the AGO covers a remarkably diverse legal landscape, including consumer protection, civil and administrative litigation, environmental law, torts, tribal law, labor law, appellate practice and criminal prosecution.

The agency is highly respected for the quality of its legal work and the professionalism and ethical standards of its staff and leadership. The AGO's dedicated team of more than 600 attorneys and 600 professional staff often cite the AGO's broad mandate, offering challenging, diverse work in the public interest as reasons to join the office -- and opportunities for professional growth, along with a collegial atmosphere, as reasons to stay. The AGO greatly encourages, celebrates and values diversity, appreciating that a workforce composed of those from different backgrounds and experiences creates an inclusive environment, strengthens

positive relationships with the local community and brings new perspectives and approaches to fulfill its mission of providing excellent, independent and ethical legal services to the State of Washington and protect the rights of its people.

For more information about the AGO, we encourage you to review the Office's newest Annual Report which can be found [HERE](#) and view [THIS VIDEO](#).

This position is located in Tumwater (just south of Olympia), Washington. The Olympia-Tumwater area offers a diverse, affordable and safe community. Living and working here offers unparalleled opportunities to pursue a rewarding career while living in an historically rich and vibrant area. It is ideally situated between the Northwest's two largest cities (Seattle and Portland) and exploring either is but a short drive away. If exploring Washington State's natural features is your passion, know that hiking, skiing and sailing opportunities are easily accessible. But you needn't stray from home for an adventure, as the Olympia-Tumwater area offers lush parks and trails, walkable neighborhoods, and exceptional dining, shopping and cultural experiences. Families and individuals will benefit from the Olympia-Tumwater area's excellent schools, from elementary through college.

Duties

The Washington State Attorney General's Office has an outstanding opportunity for an experienced attorney to join its **Torts Division** in **Tumwater** (just south of Olympia) as an **Assistant Attorney General** working on behalf of the people of Washington State. The division seeks an attorney with five-plus years of legal practice, including significant litigation experience, to defend state agencies and employees in suits alleging negligence, employment discrimination, negligent land use or management, civil rights violations, and other tort theories.

The successful candidate will defend tort cases brought in state and federal courts against state agencies and their employees, including the Departments of Corrections (DOC), Natural Resources (DNR), Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife. Such cases have included claims against DOC regarding the supervision of offenders after release from prison, and against DNR following landslides, fires, or floods. Other cases have included claims involving employment discrimination, health treatment of prisoners, and prison conditions.

The attorney selected for this position will be responsible for maintaining and applying a comprehensive knowledge of procedural and substantive law, working productively with agency clients, developing and executing legal strategy, conducting and answering discovery, bringing and answering motions, engaging in alternative dispute resolution, negotiating settlements as appropriate, and managing and executing all aspects of case preparation and presentation in jury and bench trials, primarily in Western Washington. The successful candidate can also expect to handle appeals on cases, including briefing and oral argument.

The work of the Torts Division is demanding, stimulating, and rewarding. Lawyers who enjoy working on cutting-edge legal issues thrive here. The challenges of this fast-paced, diverse work are enhanced by the collegial team environment, the dedicated professional support staff, and the extensive litigation resources provided by the Torts Division. In addition, the Torts Division provides progressive training by

seasoned professionals that allows attorneys to assume responsibility for increasingly complex and difficult cases.

Though the position is located in Tumwater, Washington, occasional travel to other areas of the state can be expected.

Qualifications

Applicants should possess:

- Strong analytical, research, and writing skills;
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills;
- Good problem solving skills;
- Excellent legal judgment; and
- The interest and ability to work well in a collaborative team environment with the litigation support and investigative staff, the client agencies and agency Risk Managers, the Office of Risk Management, and other Torts Division attorneys.

Ideal candidates will also have strong experience:

- Interviewing witnesses and conducting and responding to discovery;
- Taking depositions;
- Drafting briefs;
- Handling an active motion practice;
- Working with expert witnesses;
- Interacting with high level client representatives;
- Conducting trials in state and/or federal court; and
- Working with people who have diverse backgrounds, experience, and communication styles.

Tort litigation experience, while advantageous, is not essential. Relevant subject matter experience is preferred but not required.

Applicants must have graduated from a law school accredited by the ABA or completed the WSBA's Rule 6 Law Clerk Program and be licensed to practice law in Washington state. The AGO seeks applicants who are committed to public service as demonstrated by an applicant's background, talents, attitude, and enthusiasm for public law practice. The AGO greatly encourages, celebrates and values diversity, appreciating that a workforce composed of those from different backgrounds and experiences creates an inclusive environment, strengthens positive relationships with the local community and brings new perspectives and approaches to fulfill its mission of providing excellent, independent and ethical legal services to the State of Washington and protect the rights of its people.

Supplemental Information

AGO salaries are based on experience, qualifications and are commensurate with comparable positions in the AGO. A competitive state benefits package is also offered which includes a choice of medical/dental insurance plans, retirement, life and basic long-term disability insurance. In addition, there are non-financial benefits

that include working in a collaborative and supportive work environment where professional development and work-life balance are highly valued.

Interested applicants must apply by hitting the "apply" button above. In addition to the on-line application, one must upload, via the system:

- A letter of interest;
- Resume;
- Law school transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable); and
- Writing sample.

If you have questions about this position and/or wish to learn more about it before applying, we encourage and welcome you to contact Torts Section Chief Allyson Zipp at AllysonZ@atg.wa.gov or (360) 586-6444. The deadline for receipt of all application material is January 21, 2019.

Honoring diversity, equity and inclusion means that as an agency, and as individuals, we are committed to ensuring that all employees and volunteers enjoy a respectful, safe and supportive working environment. Only by fostering the inclusion of people from all backgrounds, cultures and attributes, can AGO employees and volunteers achieve their fullest potential and best advance the goals and mission of the AGO.

The AGO is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status, retaliation or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Persons requiring reasonable accommodation in the application process or requiring information in an alternative format may contact Tracy Robinson at 360-586-7693. Those with a hearing impairment in need of accommodation are encouraged to contact the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-676-3777 or www.washingtonrelay.com.