

State of Washington
Attorney General's Office
invites applications for the position of:
Appellate Attorney (AAG) - Criminal Justice Division

SALARY: Depends on Qualifications

OPENING DATE: 08/28/19

CLOSING DATE: 09/17/19 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:

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.



The Attorney General is the chief legal officer for the state of Washington, and the Attorney General's Office serves 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 social and health services, 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 members of 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](#).

DUTIES:

The [Bob Keppel Criminal Justice Division](#) of the Washington State Attorney General's Office has an exciting opportunity in its Seattle office for an attorney interested in prosecuting the civil commitment of sexually violent predators under RCW 71.09. The mission of the Criminal Justice Division is to work with and support its partners in the criminal justice community in creating safe communities. The attorney selected for this position will work to provide safer communities by briefing and arguing appeals in sexually violent predator civil commitment cases in the Washington State Court of Appeals, Washington State Supreme Court and Federal Courts.

This is a temporary, benefits-eligible position that is expected to last at least three years. The person hired will be afforded the opportunity to apply and transfer into a permanently-funded position at the end of the assignment.

We seek an attorney with demonstrated appellate experience and exceptional legal writing and oral advocacy skills. The attorney hired for this position will work with attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants and investigators within the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Unit of the Criminal Justice Division. Sexually violent predators are generally those persons releasing from prison who meet specific criteria under Washington law, to include a history of sexually violent offense(s) and a mental abnormality that makes the person likely to commit predatory acts of sexual violence if released to the community. SVP's are housed at the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island unless court-approved for restricted release to the community.

The selected candidate's will primarily practice in the state and federal courts of appeal, but will also have the opportunity to handle trial cases in superior court on an occasional basis. SVP cases are civil in nature. Litigation duties therefore include discovery practice under the civil rules, taking and defending depositions, or submitting and responding to interrogatories and requests for production, bench and/or jury trials, and extensive motion practice.

Work in the SVP Unit is demanding but rewarding. The selected candidate will join a staff of experienced attorneys and professional staff dedicated to safer communities. The selected candidate must contribute to a collegial and inclusive work environment. The position is located in downtown Seattle, but travel around the state for appellate oral arguments and for trial preparation and court hearings/trial is required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Considerable appellate experience in either civil or criminal law is a requirement for this position.

Preferred candidates will also possess:

- Excellent writing and oral advocacy skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills to work well with others in an inclusive, collegial setting;
- Superior motivation and organizational skills;
- The ability and desire to develop complex litigation skills; and
- Superior advocacy skills required to bring cases to a successful resolution.

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.

NOTE! The applicants selected will be required to submit to and pass a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by the Washington State Patrol, Criminal Records Division. The incumbent will submit to additional background checks as a condition of employment every five (5) years thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Minimum salary for AAG positions start at \$63,000. However, AAG salaries are based on experience, qualifications and are commensurate with comparable positions in the AGO. The position's official duty station is King County and is thus eligible for 5% assignment pay per legislative action. 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 welcome and encourage you to contact SVP Section Chief Josh Choate at 206-389-3017. The deadline for receipt of all application material is September 17, 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.

Appellate Attorney (AAG) - Criminal Justice Division Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. Have you ever worked or volunteered for the Washington State Attorney General's Office?
If yes, indicate dates and positions in which you served. If "NO", you will need to indicate "NO" or "N/A" in order to proceed with your application.
- * 2. List all activities or community involvement, past or present, that demonstrate a commitment to public service.
- * 3. Are you a current member of the Washington State Bar Association?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4. What is your Washington State Bar Association number?
- 5. If seeking admission to the WSBA via reciprocity or score transfer, what date do you anticipate being admitted to the WSBA?
- * 6. Have you ever been subject to discipline or censure by a Bar Association or other licensing organization? If "YES" provide a full explanation for each disciplinary action. If the answer is "NO" you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 7. Is there any Bar disciplinary proceeding pending against you? If "YES", provide a full explanation. If the answer is "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.
- * 8. Have you ever been held in contempt or sanctioned by any state or federal court or administrative agency? If "Yes", provide a full explanation for each action. If the answer is "No" you must indicate this by typing "No" in order to proceed with your application.
- * 9. Have you ever been fired or asked to resign from any position? If "YES", you must provide a full explanation for each termination. If the answer is "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.
- * 10. Have you participated, whether as an attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, or in any other capacity, in the representation of any party in a matter where the party's interest was materially adverse to that of the State, its agencies, or its officers or employees? If "YES", please identify all such matters, including the parties to the matter, the court and cause number of the matter, and your role in the matter. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.
- * 11. Have you participated as a judge, arbitrator, mediator, adjudicative officer, or as a law clerk to such a person, in a matter in which the State or any of its agencies, officers, or employees were a party? If YES, please identify all such matters, including the parties to the matter, the court and cause number of the matter, and your role in the matter. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.
- * 12. Is there any other matter, person, entity, or personal interest that might present a conflict of interest or otherwise limit your ability to perform work for the Attorney General's Office or represent a state agency, officer, or employee? If YES, please identify such matters, persons, entities, or personal interests with sufficient detail to allow the Attorney General's Office to understand the nature of the potential conflict of interest. You are not required to disclose any pending or contemplated complaint or dispute for which the law allows you to remain anonymous; however, you are responsible for not accepting assignments that would violate conflict of interest or confidentiality provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other laws with regard to such matters. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.
- * 13. Please be advised that the AGO thoroughly checks references, including one's current employer. HOWEVER, it is very important to note that references are ONLY checked after at least one interview. Any concerns about checking references can be discussed during any interview. For the sake of efficiency, we ask that you proactively provide a release by responding affirmatively to the following statement. I authorize the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) to contact any or all of my former or present employers, or organizations for which services have been provided, for the purposes of verification and reference. This may include information of a confidential nature, to include but is not limited to reviewing my personnel file, contacting any references, and/or contacting anyone else who might be familiar with my past job performance. I knowingly and voluntarily release the state of Washington, the AGO, its individual employees, and all my former or present employers, and their individual employees, from any and all known and unknown claims for damages or other relief arising out of the AGO's request for and receipt of employment information, unless my current or former employer is prohibited by state or federal law from disclosing the information that the AGO requests. PLEASE TYPE YOUR FULL NAME IN RESPONSE TO THIS SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO PROVIDE SUCH AUTHORIZATION.
- * 14. By clicking "YES" I acknowledge and consent to the fact that a background check consisting of employment history, professional references and educational verification (e.g., degree, license, or official transcript) may be conducted. I also acknowledge and consent to a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by the Washington State Patrol, Criminal Records Division, and acknowledge that said background check will be a condition of employment for this position every five (5) years thereafter.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- * 15. Have you uploaded all of the required material (i.e., letter of interest, resume, law school transcript and writing sample) with this application?

☐ Yes ☐ No

* Required Question