

State of Washington
Attorney General's Office
invites applications for the position of:

Assistant Attorney General - Social and Health Services in Olympia (Mental Health Section)

SALARY: Depends on Qualifications

OPENING DATE: 02/26/20

CLOSING DATE: 03/09/20 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.



Providing excellent, independent, and ethical legal services to the State of Washington and protecting the rights of its people

All employees and volunteers of the Washington State Attorney General's Office serve a crucial role in the protection of the state, its people and resources, thereby providing an incomparable degree of job satisfaction. The AGO is composed of diverse, collegial and supremely talented legal professionals who are resolute in their commitment to public service and share the common goal of advancing the public interest. For more information about the AGO, we encourage you to review the Office's Annual Report which can be found [HERE](#) and view [THIS VIDEO](#).

Tumwater is a beautiful, thriving and affordable community immediately south of the state capital of Olympia. Living and working here offers unparalleled opportunities to pursue a rewarding career while living in a 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, you will appreciate that hiking, skiing and sailing opportunities are easily accessible. But you needn't stray from home for an adventure, as Tumwater/Olympia offers lush parks and trails, walkable neighborhoods, and exceptional dining, shopping and cultural experiences. Families and individuals will benefit from Tumwater/Olympia's excellent schools, from elementary through college.

DUTIES:

The [Social and Health Services Division](#) has an immediate opening for an Attorney Team Leader for the Western State Hospital Team in the Mental Health Section. The Western State Hospital Team Leader serves as the chief legal counsel to the CEO of Western State Hospital (WSH), which is a state psychiatric hospital located in Steilacoom in Pierce County, and is responsible for supervising four attorneys. The position is located in Tumwater/Olympia.

About the Team's Work

The WSH team is a part of the Mental Health Section, the division's largest section. The MHS section is an extremely collaborative team that supports one another with very fast-paced work. The section provides legal services to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) behavioral health programs, WSH, the Child Study and Treatment Center, and the Special Commitment Center for Sexually Violent Predators. Litigation for WSH includes the involuntary commitment docket at WSH, as well as jury trials, show cause hearings, felony commitment hearings, appeals, and any other litigation affecting WSH. This position may also include participation on trial teams for class action lawsuits in either federal or state court that impact WSH and/or Eastern State Hospital and/or the Behavioral Health Administration. Advice to the program covers a broad range of issues involving the legal rights of patients and the operation of the hospital. Behavioral health issues are addressed in a system in state government, and the work of the section often involves collaboration with Assistant Attorneys General for other DSHS administrations (typically Aging and Long Term Support and Development Disabilities), the Health Care Authority (responsible for Medicaid and community mental health) and the Department of Children Youth and Families (behavioral health issues that relate to serving children).

Leading a Team of Four Outstanding Attorneys

In addition to maintaining their own caseload, the WSH Team Leader supervises four attorneys, who primarily represent WSH, but whose workload also includes assignments related to the other behavioral health programs.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Desirable experience for legal work and management includes:

- litigation experience in both state and federal court;
- the ability to oversee all components of litigation including motion practice, discovery, trial preparation, mediation, negotiations and trial, including jury trials;
- experience providing client advice;
- appellate experience in state and federal court;
- relevant experience in the legal work performed by the section;
- class action litigation experience;
- strong oral and written communication skills;
- experience reviewing client advice for others (not necessarily as a supervisor);

- a demonstrated ability to foster teamwork and collaboration and promote a positive work environment that recognizes and respects all employees; and
- management experience or demonstrated interest in management and examples of success in leadership roles for projects, committees or teams.

The Team Leader must be comfortable appearing in court and occasionally on wards or the grounds of state institutions where violent persons may be present. The Team Leader must also have the ability to handle subject matter that can be characterized as offensive and/or violent. Due to the challenging subject matter, flexibility, empathy and a sense of humor is optimal.

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:

The Assistant Attorney General position is represented by the Association of Assistant Attorneys General (AWAAG) / Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) AFSCME Council 28, AFL-CIO.

Starting salary for AAG positions for entry level positions start at sixty-three thousand dollars a year. Ultimately, AAG salaries are based on experience and 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, **preferably as PDFs:**

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

If you have questions about this position and/or want to learn more about it before applying, please contact Section Chief Sally Coats at (360) 586-6528 or Division Chief Paige Dietrich at (360) 586-6557. The deadline to apply is March 9, 2020.

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.

Assistant Attorney General - Social and Health Services in Olympia (Mental Health Section) 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, asked to resign, or resigned in lieu of termination, 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. 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