Job Title: Assistant General Counsel/Enforcement & Litigation  
Department: Department Of Commerce  
Agency: Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Sub Agency: Office of the General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation  
Job Announcement Number: UNSEC-GC-2010-0040

Salary Range: 123,758.00 - 155,000.00 USD /year

Series & Grade: GS-0905-15/15

Promotion Potential: 15

Open Period: Thursday, May 06, 2010 to Friday, June 04, 2010

Position Information: Full-Time Permanent

Duty Locations: 1 vacancy - Silver Spring, Maryland

Who May Be Considered: United States Citizens

Job Summary:

An exciting opportunity is available to lead the NOAA General Counsel Office's national and international enforcement program as Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation. This program is responsible for protecting our nation's fisheries, marine sanctuaries, threatened and endangered species, and marine mammals. The incumbent will also have the opportunity to develop and expand this program. NOAA is a premiere environmental agency located within the Department of Commerce and employs over 12,000 individuals nationwide. The agency's mission is to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources and to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment to meet the Nation's economic, social and environmental needs. For more information see www.noaa.gov.

The NOAA Office of the General Counsel employs approximately 110 attorneys nationwide who provide legal advice to the NOAA Under Secretary and the agency's constituent line offices. The Office of Enforcement and Litigation is a unit in the NOAA Office of the General Counsel, headquartered in Silver Spring, MD. with 14 enforcement attorneys located in the headquarters office and regional offices in St. Petersburg, FL; Seattle, WA, Gloucester, MA, Juneau, AK; Long Beach, CA; and Honolulu, HI. For more information, see www.qc.noaa.gov.

Key Requirements:

- Applicant must successfully complete a background security investigation before you can be appointed into this position.
- Position requires overnight domestic and foreign travel.
- Position is in the excepted service. Applicant must complete a one-year probationary period.

**Major Duties:**

The Assistant General Counsel will lead the Office for Enforcement and Litigation, ensuring a strong and effective enforcement program to protect the nation's natural resources. Duties include: (1) Develops the Office's strategy and implementation plan to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and other relevant natural resource laws. (2) Establishes and implements appropriate enforcement guidelines, policies and procedures, determines appropriate allocation of staff resources and supervises and manages all enforcement actions taken by the Office. (3) Undertakes periodic and comprehensive evaluation of program goals, objectives and operations. (4) Plays a critical role in a range of policy, legislative, regulatory and outreach issues including engaging in public speaking, as appropriate, to educate the public on the office's work. (5) Works closely with NOAA Office for Law Enforcement and other NOAA components. (6) Coordinates with other components throughout the Federal government, including the Departments of Justice, State and the Interior, the U.S. Attorney Offices nationwide and the U.S. Coast Guard, and state and tribal law enforcement and natural resource agencies, to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative national and international effort to enforce the relevant natural resource laws. (7) Ensures the training and development of the office's staff, as well as NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, and state and tribal law enforcement personnel. For additional information about the office, see [http://www.gcel.noaa.gov](http://www.gcel.noaa.gov).

**Qualifications:**

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to manage a complex organization and tackle challenging organizational issues that include: ability to manage a diverse workforce that includes lawyers, non-lawyer professionals, and support staff; ability to establish an organizational vision, develop a strategic plan and implement strategic change; develop and advance policy and regulatory initiatives; build coalitions, both within the organization and outside the organization, to effectively enforce the applicable statutory provisions; ability to identify and resolve complex legal and technical issues; and ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Applicants must have experience litigating cases and negotiating settlements. Experience with federal natural resources or conservation laws, e.g., the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, or the National Marine Sanctuaries Act will be favorably considered. Experience developing or leading an enforcement program will also be favorably considered.

Significant academic achievement in law school (such as graduation in top third of class, graduation with honors, judicial clerking experience, or participation in moot court or law review) will be favorably considered.

Applicants must have a J.D. from an accredited law school, and be an active member in good standing of a state bar or the bar of the District of Columbia.

Significant academic achievement in law school (such as graduation in top third of class, graduation with honors, significant judicial clerking experience, or participation in moot court or law review) and work with a government agency will be favorably considered.
Applicants must be U.S. citizens to qualify for this position.

**How You Will Be Evaluated:**

Applicants will be evaluated based on the Qualifications described above. Please be advised that NOAA Attorney positions are in the Excepted Service. As such, these positions are not covered by the usual civil service hiring procedures. There is no numerical rating system through which to apply veterans preference; however, the NOAA Office of the General Counsel considers veterans preference eligibility as a positive factor in hiring. Applicants eligible for veterans preference are encouraged to include that information in their cover letter or resume, and to attach supporting documentation (e.g., the DD-214 or other substantiating documents) to their submissions.

**Benefits:**


Life insurance coverage is provided. More info: [http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#life](http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#life)

Long-Term Care Insurance is offered and carries into your retirement. More info: [http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#ltci](http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#ltci)

New employees are automatically covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). If you are transferring from another agency and covered by CSRS, you may continue in this program. More info: [http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#retr](http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#retr)

You will earn annual vacation leave. More info: [http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#VACA](http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#VACA)


You will be paid for federal holidays that fall within your regularly scheduled tour of duty. More info: [http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#HOLI](http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#HOLI)

If you use public transportation, part of your transportation costs may be subsidized. Our human resources office can provide additional information on how this program is run.

**Other Information:**

This job is being filled by an alternative hiring process and is not in the competitive civil service. NOAA Attorney positions are in the Excepted Service. As such, these positions are not covered by the usual civil service hiring procedures. There is no numerical rating system through which to apply veteran’s preference; however, the NOAA Office of the General Counsel considers veterans preference eligibility as a positive factor in hiring. Applicants eligible for veteran’s preference are encouraged to include that information in their cover letter or resume, and to attach supporting documentation (e.g., DD-214 or other substantiating documents) to their submissions.

**How To Apply:**

Application may be made by sending a resume, writing sample (not exceeding ten pages), and cover letter to Gina Jackson, Office Manager, Office of the General Counsel, or by e-
In your cover letter or an attachment, please explain how your experience, education, training, activities, or awards relate to the qualification listed above. Also explain why you are interested in working for the NOAA Office of the General Counsel. Please include your e-mail address and your day and evening telephone numbers, and indicate the best time to reach you by telephone.

Contact Information:
Gina Jackson
Phone: 202-482-4080
Fax: 202-482-4893
Email: gina.jackson@noaa.gov

Agency Information:
Department of Commerce, NOAA, OGC
14th & Constitution Ave, NW
Room 5814A
Washington, DC 20230
US
Fax: 202-482-4893

What To Expect Next:
Applicants will not be notified that their application has been received. Interviews may be arranged at the discretion of NOAA for those subject to further consideration based upon qualifications.

EEO Policy Statement:  http://www.usajobs.gov/eoo
Veterans Information:  http://www.usajobs.gov/vi
Legal and Regulatory Guidance:  http://www.usajobs.gov/lrg