



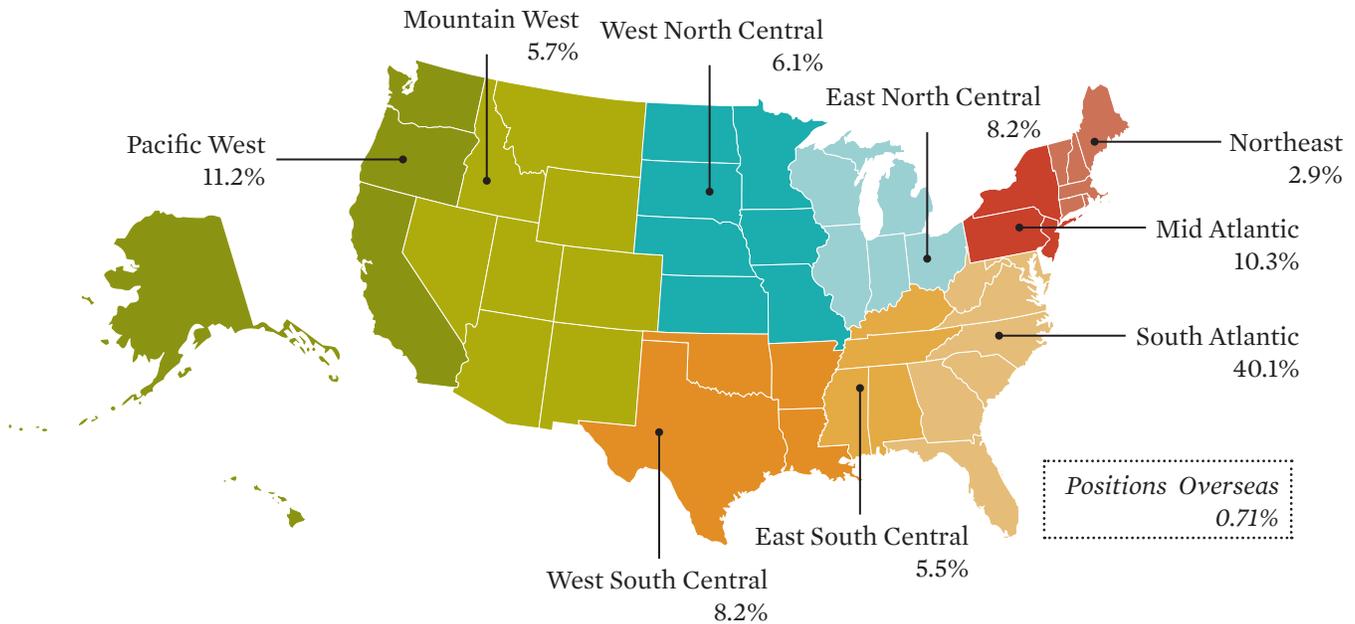
# Legal

## FEDERAL CAREER GUIDE

Are you interested in pursuing a job in a legal field? The federal government offers a variety of opportunities for individuals with knowledge and skills in law, whether or not you have a law degree. For example, legal assistants conduct legal research at the Department of Labor, patent examiners analyze and research new inventions for the Department of Commerce, and attorneys resolve complex law questions at the Millenium Challenge Corporation.

This guide will give you a glimpse of the type of legal jobs available in the government. For more information about searching and applying for positions in the federal government, visit [gogovernment.org](http://gogovernment.org)

### Legal Positions by Region



### Top Legal Fields



SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

### Top Agencies with Employees in Law



SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

## SEARCH FOR LEGAL POSITIONS

With so many opportunities to use your legal skills, it may be helpful to sort positions by **job category**. The most common categories are listed below. You can search [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) using these keywords or by using the job series code, a four-digit number corresponding to a government job category.

### Job Categories

- 0905** General Attorney
- 0950** Paralegal Specialist
- 0962** Contact Representative
- 0986** Legal Assistance
- 1222** Patent Attorney

### Search Tips

As the nation's largest employer, the federal government has thousands of positions open at any one time. Here are our top tips for finding the right job announcements for you:

- 1. Do Your Research.**  
Explore a variety of positions and agencies, then focus your search to a few that align best with your interests and skills.
- 2. Visit Agency Websites.**  
Learn more about an agency's mission, structure and current hiring on their website.
- 3. Create an account on USAJOBS.gov**  
Save your job searches, build your resume and search for positions at [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov)

### Did You Know?

- More than 80 percent of general attorneys in the federal government make at least \$100,000 per year.
- There are more than 200 federal employees currently working in legal positions overseas.
- Not all legal positions require a law degree or membership to the American Bar Association. For example, if you have a bachelor's degree or one year of specialized experience, you qualify for an entry-level job as a legal assistant, a contact representative, or a benefits specialist, just to name a few.

### Examples of Job Positions

#### Paralegal Specialist (0950)

Department: Department of Homeland Security  
Agency: Customs and Border Protection  
Salary Range: \$27,000-\$44,000/year  
*Location: New Orleans, Louisiana*

As a Paralegal Specialist, you will:

- Perform legal support work on cases related to seizures, penalties and liquidated damages
- Review and finalize claims
- Prepare synopses of cases
- Hold conferences with the public to provide status of cases or required procedures

#### Attorney Advisor (0905)

Department: Department of Justice  
Agency: Office of the Inspector General  
Salary Range: \$105,000-\$156,000/year  
*Location: Washington, D.C.*

As an Attorney Advisor, you will:

- Plan, organize and conduct investigations into sensitive allegations concerning government officials and programs
- Compile and analyze documents and testimony, interview witnesses and subjects, and prepare memoranda and reports
- Make recommendations for policy changes, administrative action or criminal prosecution

Visit us online at

**[gogovernment.org/law](https://www.gogovernment.org/law)**

Learn more about finding a government job or internship in law and about:

- The Application Process
- Federal Agencies
- Pay and Benefits
- Writing a Federal Resume
- Security Clearances
- Searching for Positions
- USAJOBS.gov
- Internships
- Employee Profiles

