

Vacancy Details

Personnel Notice:	142-15
Date Announced:	12/07/2015
Closing Date:	12/22/2015
Command:	NAVSEA
Grade:	GS-11
Type:	Assistant Counsel (Intellectual Property)

There are two entry-level vacancies for intellectual property (IP) law attorneys within the Office of Counsel at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, (NSWC Crane), Crane, Indiana. NSWC Crane, one of ten Divisions within the Naval Surface Warfare Center of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), specializes in the acquisition and fleet support of electronics, ordnance and electronic warfare products and systems. NSWC Crane is an industrial leader in applying better processes and technologies to the development, acquisition, and support of modern naval combat weapons systems. As one of Indiana's largest high-tech employers, NSWC Crane currently employs approximately 2,000 scientists, engineers and technicians. NSWC Crane's total population is approximately 3,000. The main facility is located in south central Indiana with a detachment in Fallbrook, California.

NAVSEA is responsible for the development, acquisition and maintenance of ships, shipboards systems and ordnance for the Department of the Navy (DON), with an annual budget of approximately \$30 billion and a workforce of roughly 53,000 military and civilian personnel.

The NSWC Crane Office of Counsel is a field office within the Office of Counsel for NAVSEA. The NAVSEA Office of Counsel has over 100 lawyers located at the Washington Navy Yard Headquarters and in 21 field offices throughout the United States. The NSWC Crane Office of Counsel is comprised of eight attorneys, including three IP attorneys, three paralegals and an administrative assistant and has a varied workload covering the full range of the DON Office of the General Counsel's (OGC) practice, with emphasis on IP law, federal acquisition law, civilian personnel law and related litigation.

The successful candidates are expected to provide the full range of IP legal services in the areas of patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and the IP issues pertaining to government contracts. The successful candidates should expect to become proficient in drafting and prosecuting patent applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, negotiating copyright agreements and software licenses, negotiating non-disclosure and assignment agreements, providing contract counseling on IP and trade secret matters, reviewing technical data and computer software data rights issues in government contracts and providing counseling/advice thereon, providing IP litigation support, assisting with patent and copyright administrative claims, and serving as an advisor on technology transfer matters including patent licensing and Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) matters.

The successful candidates will be called upon to provide support in all of these areas. The positions are rated as a NT-IV, V, VI (comparable to GS-11/12/13/14/15), but will be filled at the GS-11-equivalent level. To be eligible for selection at the NT-IV level (GS-11-equivalent level), applicants must have a Bachelor's of Science degree in physical or chemical sciences or engineering, be registered to practice and to prosecute patent applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and have one year of legal experience. If an applicant is a recent law school graduate or has less than one year of legal experience, the applicant must have graduated in the top third of their law school class or must present other evidence of clearly superior accomplishment or achievement such as work or achievement of significance on an official law school law review or journal, winning a moot court competition, membership on the law school's official moot court team, or membership in the Order of the Coif.

The positions will be filled at the GS-11-equivalent level within the NT-IV pay band (comparable to the GS-11/12 level) of the NAVSEA Warfare Center Personnel Demonstration Project, and the positions will have promotion potential to the NT-VI (comparable to GS-15) level.

Applicants will be evaluated on their: 1) relevant experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities in IP law, with additional weight given to experience in preparing and prosecuting U.S. patent applications; 2) written and oral communication skills; 3) ability to work both independently and as part of a team; 4) education, training and academic achievement; and 5) their education and work experience in science or engineering. An understanding of the Navy, NAVSEA and OGC is desirable, but not mandatory.

The successful candidates must be U.S. citizens; have graduated from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association; be an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, U.S. Commonwealth, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia; be admitted to practice before a state or federal court and be eligible to obtain and maintain a Top Secret security clearance.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume, two brief (less than 10 pages) writing samples that demonstrate analytical and advocacy abilities, a copy of their law school transcript and class rank, the two most recent performance appraisals if available, and the names and telephone numbers of at least three references who may be contacted. Performance appraisals should include the rating official's narrative. Interested attorneys are encouraged to contact Ms. Susan Luther at (812) 854-1130, or by e-mail at Susan.luther@navy.mil for more information.

It is recommended that applications be sent electronically to Ms. Luther at the email address above. If necessary, applications may be mailed to:

Ms. Susan K. Luther, Counsel
NSWC Crane Division
Code OOL Building 2
300 Highway 361
Crane, IN 47522-5001

If the successful applicant is not currently a member of the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel, processing of the hiring action can only commence after submission of those items identified in the "Instructions for New OGC Attorneys" (see Careers section of www.ogc.navy.mil).

Applicants eligible for veterans' preference must specifically claim such eligibility in their cover letter, identify the basis for the claim, and include supporting documentation (e.g., the DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or other supporting documentation) with their submission. Not all veterans are preference eligible. For a summary of time periods, campaigns, and conditions that entitle an applicant to preference eligibility, please visit www.opm.gov/veterans and review the "Vets Info Guide" and the "Vets Guide." There is no formal rating system for applying veterans' preference for attorney appointments in the excepted service; however, the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel considers veterans' preference eligibility a positive factor in the attorney hiring process. Applicants who do not claim and do not provide adequate supporting documentation for veterans' preference will not receive the positive factor consideration.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy or gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy Statement:

https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Reasonable_Accommodation_Policy_Statement

Legal and Regulatory Guidance: https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Legal_and_Regulatory_Guidance

Relocation expenses are not available.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION EMPLOYER

The Department of the Navy is an Equal Opportunity/ Reasonable Accommodation Employer. All hiring and advancement in the Office of the General Counsel is based on merit without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation or marital status.

The Department of the Navy provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should inform the individual identified in the personnel notice. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

VETERANS PREFERENCE IN HIRING

Department of the Navy attorney positions are in the excepted service, not the competitive civil service. There is no formal rating system for applying veterans' preference to attorney appointments in the excepted service; however, the Department of the Navy considers veterans' preference eligibility as a positive factor in attorney hiring. If you are eligible for veterans' preference in hiring, you are encouraged to include that information in your application along with the supporting documentation, e.g., DD 214. Not all veterans are eligible for veterans' preference. To find out if you are, you may visit the Veterans' Preference Advisor, operated by the Department of Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/vetspref.htm>.