WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
A CIVILIAN ATTORNEY AND A JUDGE ADVOCATE?

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

CIVILIAN ATTORNEY

• Appointment into Federal Civil Service
• Business Attire
• Transfers and Deployment are Voluntary
• Majority of Work is Transactional and Civil Litigation
• Distinct Practice Areas: Government Contract Law; International Transactions; Employment/Labor Law; Real Property Law; Fiscal Law; Intellectual Property Law; Energy; and Arms Control.
• Assignments are Based on the Attorney’s Interests and the Needs of the Navy and Marine Corps
• Pay is set by General Schedule table and Locality
• Promotion Eligibility to Senior GS-15 Attorney at 5 1/2 Years
• Subject to the Federal Merit System Rules
• Fitness Centers and Classes are Available
• Flexible Work Schedules and Telework (where available)

NAVY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL AND MARINE CORPS STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

• Commissioned into Military Service
• Military Uniform
• Transfers and Deployments can be Mandatory
• Majority of Work relates to Military Matters (Military Missions and Military Personnel)
• Distinct Practice Areas: Military Justice; Operational and International Law; Administrative Law; Legal Assistance for Military Personnel; Federal Tort Claims Act; and Admiralty Law and Law of the Sea.
• Assignments are Dictated by the Needs of the Navy and the Marine Corps
• Pay is Set by Rank and Locality (Tax Free)
• Promotion Eligibility to Navy Captain or Marine Corps Colonel at 17-18 Years
• Subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice
• Mandatory Physical Training and Physical Fitness (Height and Weight Standards)

TWO TYPES OF LAWYERS DEDICATED TO SERVING OUR SAILORS AND MARINES

Dedication to providing the finest legal services to the Department of the Navy. A strong tradition of helping others while on the job and in the community. Pride in legal work and service provided to the men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Perform outstanding legal services while maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards. All graduates of an ABA approved law school and active members of the state bar.

Strong mentorship and on the job training. Breadth of legal practices through flexible rotations, assignments, and developmental opportunities.

Recruitment, development, and retention of the best people to perform high quality legal services with diverse backgrounds and unique experiences. Many wish to join, but only a select few are chosen. Majority of attorneys have law review/journal, moot court experience.

DON OGC and JAG have distinct practice areas, and also shared practice areas in Cyber Law; Environmental Law; Ethics; Intelligence Law; Litigation; Legislation; and FOIA/Privacy Act Law.