

Assistant Attorneys General Recruitment – Summer/Fall 2022
Office of the Attorney General of American Samoa

Do you want to practice law on a tropical island in the South Pacific Ocean while gaining significant legal experience in a U.S. territory? Do you want to work toward protecting and advancing the safety, interests, and quality of life of the people in your community? Do you want to experience a vibrant and unique Polynesian culture? If so, please consider applying to join our team!

The Office of the Attorney General in American Samoa is currently accepting applications for Assistant Attorneys General (“AAGs”) for its Criminal Division. American Samoa, a U.S. territory comprising seven islands and atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, follows U.S. federal law as well as local territorial law. The Office of the Attorney General of American Samoa represents the Territory in civil and criminal legal matters. Our Criminal Division prosecutes all crimes in the Territory, from traffic violations to major felonies.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

AAGs in the Criminal Division represent the American Samoa Government in juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony prosecutions. AAGs are responsible for prosecuting crimes in the territory and such duties include analyzing police reports, preparing pleadings, interviewing victims and witnesses, meeting with police officers and investigators, negotiating pleas, and preparing for and appearing at judicial hearings (including first appearances, probable cause hearings, motion hearings, status conferences, trials, and sentencings). This position also includes such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Attorney General.

MANDATORY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Juris Doctor (JD) from ABA-approved law school
- Member in good standing of a state bar in the United States
- Self-starter with good organizational and analytical skills
- Proven experience as a member of a litigation or prosecutorial team
- Strong legal research and writing skills
- Significant substantive and procedural motion practice
- Committed to high-quality work product, including keen attention to detail
- Well-organized with good analytical skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Able to work in a team environment

BENEFITS:

Applicants who are hired off-island receive two-year employment contracts, which are renewable. The annual starting salary for AAGs ranges from \$60,000 to \$65,000,

depending on experience. In addition to salary, two-year contract employees receive the following benefits:

- furnished housing (nominal cost to employee is \$25 per week);
- travel to/from American Samoa at start/end of contract (including family members);
- shipping allowance for personal effects (at amount set by local regulation);
- local medical and dental coverage; and
- generous annual leave (26 days per year) and sick leave (13 days per year).

TO APPLY:

If interested in a position with our Criminal Division, please submit a resume, a writing sample, a list of 2-3 references, and a cover letter detailing:

- your exposure/interest in criminal law and prosecution;
- your relevant qualifications;
- summary of professional experience, including case load and trial exposure;
- your motivations for an employment change;
- why you would like to live in American Samoa; and
- your ability to relocate to American Samoa on an expedited basis.

Please send application materials to: job@la.as.gov. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Signing bonuses are available for highly qualified candidates who are able to fill immediate openings.