



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the General Counsel

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE

Washington, D.C. 20230

Position Title: Attorney Advisor (GS-12-14; Excepted Service, Full Time - Permanent)

Salary Range: \$102,415 - \$187,093 per year

United States Department of Commerce

Office of the Secretary

Office of the General Counsel

Office of the Chief Counsel for International Commerce

Location: Washington, DC

Posted: February 12, 2026

Application Period: OCC-IC will prioritize review of applications received by March 5, 2026.

OCC-IC will continue to accept applications as long as this announcement is posted.

DUTIES

Summary

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of the General Counsel, is seeking full-time attorneys to join the Office of the Chief Counsel for International Commerce (OCC-IC).

OCC-IC provides legal advice and support to the International Trade Administration (ITA) on international trade and investment issues, including tariffs, investment and export promotion, international data flows and privacy, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), intellectual property, and competition. OCC-IC attorneys work on a wide range of legal topics in support of ITA's work, including:

Developing and Implementing the Administration's Trade Agenda: Providing advice on the negotiation and implementation of bilateral and regional trade deals and on implementation of tariff regimes to achieve reciprocal trade and protect the national security.

Negotiating and Implementing Cross-Border Data Arrangements: Working with ITA and other agencies in developing, negotiating, and implementing international arrangements that allow for the free flow of data while maintaining high standards of privacy protection.

Protecting the National Security and Fostering Foreign Investment: ITA seeks to promote foreign investment that creates American jobs and grows the U.S. economy while also restricting foreign investment that might endanger U.S. national security, and OCC-IC supports both activities. We also work with ITA in implementing new restrictions on U.S. investment in countries of concern.

Bringing Down Trade Barriers: Advising ITA on addressing barriers to U.S. exports and foreign investment. We work with ITA to determine the nature of the barrier, the applicable international legal requirements, and the legal and policy tools available to address the barrier.

Promoting U.S. Exports: Providing legal support to ITA in promoting U.S. exports through trade missions and other activities.

OCC-IC is strongly interested in candidates with specialized expertise in customs, tariffs, intellectual property, and/or international tax, but such experience is not required. All qualified candidates are welcome to apply.

OCC-IC is strongly committed to its mission, public service, and collegiality. OCC-IC attorneys are known for their creativity, dedication, and track record of providing high-quality legal service and counsel. For more information about the Office of Chief Counsel for International Commerce, please visit <https://www.commerce.gov/ogc/about-ogc/offices/office-chief-counsel-international-commerce-occ-ic>.

Responsibilities

As an Attorney Advisor in OCC-IC, you will, among other things:

- Serve as a legal advisor to ITA concerning the interpretation and application of U.S. and international law and international trade and investment agreements.
- Support ITA in working with other U.S. Government agencies on trade and investment policy, trade negotiations, monitoring compliance by foreign trading partners, and trade compliance and enforcement actions.
- Advise on matters relating to export and inward investment promotion programs and activities.
- Analyze U.S. law, U.S. trade and investment agreements, and foreign trade agreements, laws, regulations, and policies.
- Coordinate with legal offices in other parts of DOC and in other U.S. Government agencies.
- Perform duties on a range of legal issues that will vary in legal and factual complexity, often of a novel nature, and with limited if any applicable precedents.
- With supervision, conduct research, develop legal strategies, and develop and present recommendations to policy officials.
- Work on matters that can have an important impact on U.S. industry and the U.S. economy.
- Thoroughly and thoughtfully research and develop legal options in a fast-paced environment with short deadlines.

REQUIREMENTS

Conditions of Employment

- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must be registered for Selective Service, if applicable.
- You must be suitable for Federal employment. You will be required to complete a background investigation and fingerprint check.
- You will be required to access national security information and you must be able to obtain and maintain a Secret Clearance. (For more information, please see <https://www.commerce.gov/osy/programs/personnel-security/background-investigation-requests>).
- You will be required to submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure on an annual basis (For more information, please see: <https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/Resources/OGE+Form+450>).
- Applicants may be required to undergo drug testing prior to selection (For more information, please see: <https://www.commerce.gov/hr/employees/drug-free-workplace>).
- A two-year trial period is required.

This position's duty station is in Washington, D.C.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for this position, applicants must have a demonstrated interest in international economic or commercial matters and a minimum of one year of specialized professional legal experience interpreting and advising on U.S. and international law or one year of specialized professional experience, ideally in the area of U.S. international trade, commercial, and investment policy. For purposes of this position, specialized professional legal experience may consist of paid or unpaid experience post bar-admission, including Federal or State Government experience, law firm or legal practice, judicial clerkship, and/or unpaid or volunteer legal work. Specialized legal experience is preferred.

We are seeking a candidate with the following additional qualifications: strong research, editing, and writing skills; effective analytical and reasoning skills with respect to identification and recommended minimization of legal risk; professional communication skills needed to successfully engage with peers, colleagues, supervisors, and clients; ability to handle and be responsible for a variety of assignments with short, time-critical deadlines; and interpersonal communication skills suitable for successfully working on a team on projects that require legal analysis. We are also seeking a candidate with familiarity or experience with Government work, or other demonstrated interest in public service, and a demonstrated ability to meaningfully contribute to OCC-IC's workplace culture.

Applicants will be evaluated based on how well they meet these qualifications.

Education and Active Bar Membership

Applicants must possess a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree or Master of Laws (L.L.M.) degree from an ABA-accredited law school. Official or unofficial transcripts must be submitted with your application package. In addition, applicants must have an active bar membership in one of the 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

A complete application consists of the following:

- Cover letter demonstrating interest in international economic or commercial matters.
- Resumé detailing relevant experience, skills, education, and qualifications.
- Copy of law school transcript (unofficial copy is sufficient, but official copy must be submitted before appointment).
- Writing Sample. Seven pages or less, preferably on an international trade or investment law issue or administrative law topic.
- Certificate of bar membership and proof of good standing. You must be an active member of the Bar in one or more states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. (Prior to receiving a formal offer, you will be asked to provide a certificate of bar membership and proof of good standing.)

For current and former Federal employees: For prior work in Federal service, please include the grade level for the position(s) on your resumé. You must submit a copy of your most recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, which shows competitive or excepted service appointment and salary.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Applications will also be considered for any future vacancies.

Please submit applications to OCCIC@doc.gov and include “Attorney Advisor Position” in the subject field.

Due to the volume of anticipated applications, applicants should only expect to be notified if they will be interviewed.

BENEFITS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a Federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. Information about benefits available for U.S. Department of Commerce employees can be found at <https://www.commerce.gov/index.php/hr/employees/benefits>.

As a Federal employee, you may be able to enroll in health, dental, vision and life insurance, flexible spending accounts, and apply for long term care insurance at preferred rates. For more information, please visit <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/Guide-Me/New-Prospective-Employees/>. Occasional domestic or international travel may be required.

Relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.

This position has promotion potential to GS-15.

The Department of Commerce is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will be considered without regard to political or religious affiliation, marital status, race, color, sex, national origin, non disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age, or any other non-merit factor.

OCC-IC considers veterans' preference as a positive factor. Applicants who have veterans' preference are encouraged to include their information in their cover letters or resumes and attach supporting documentation to substantiate their preference.

For more information about the Office of the Chief Counsel for International Commerce or about this position, please e-mail OCCIC@doc.gov.