

State of Washington
Attorney General's Office
invites applications for the position of:
**Division Chief - Consumer Protection
Division**

careers.wa.gov
Working for Washington State

SALARY: Depends on Qualifications

OPENING DATE: 12/09/20

CLOSING DATE: 01/10/21 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:

Persons requiring reasonable accommodation in the application and/or interview process may contact Kalea Muigai at 360-586-7698. For those who are hearing impaired and need assistance, please contact the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-676-3777 or www.washingtonrelay.com



The Washington Attorney General's Office (AGO) is seeking an experienced attorney, manager and outstanding leader to serve as Division Chief of the Consumer Protection (CP) Division. The Division is one of the largest in the AGO and has long been recognized as a national leader in safeguarding consumers. Whether vigorously litigating against drug companies contributing to the opioid epidemic, launching investigations aimed at identifying and preventing data breaches, or combatting price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Consumer Protection Division makes a real and tangible difference to all Washingtonians.

This opportunity to lead the CP Division is exceptionally rare. It is a chance to play a critically important and impactful role in one of the country's most cutting-edge enforcement programs.

About the CP Division

The Division currently consists of over 115 employees, including 37 attorneys. The primary work of the Division is the enforcement of Washington State's Consumer Protection Act and related state and federal laws. The Division aggressively carries out this mission and is recognized as a national leader in protecting consumers. Some notable trial victories include [State v. Comcast](#) (charging customers for Service Protection Plan without their consent; \$9.1M in penalties) and [State v. Living Essentials](#) (deceptive advertising regarding 5-Hour energy drink; \$4.3M in penalties, fees and

costs). In addition, the Division has also employed consumer protection laws in new ways, including [State v. Arlene's Flowers](#) (unfair business practice for business to discriminate against customers on basis of sexual orientation) and [State v. Hickey](#) (unfair and deceptive practice to use fake business and promises of employment to sexually victimize women).

The Division's investigations and litigation touch a wide variety of industries and business practices including student lending ([State v. Navient](#)), the provision of charity care by hospitals ([State v. CHI Franciscan](#)), data breaches ([State v. Premera](#)) and other high tech matters, medical devices ([State v. Johnson & Johnson](#)), charity scams ([Breast Cancer Prevention Fund](#)), and robocalling ([State v. US Air Ducts](#)).

In addition to enforcing consumer protection laws through investigations and litigation, the Division also includes work units responsible for administering the state's [Lemon Law](#) program, the [Manufactured/Mobile Home Dispute Resolution Program](#) and the [Consumer Resource Center](#), which is responsible for handling tens of thousands of consumer complaints and engaging in proactive dispute resolution with businesses. The Division also houses the [Public Counsel Unit](#), which represents customers of state-regulated, investor-owned utility companies in matters before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, state courts, and the legislature.

DUTIES:

Duties of the CP Division Chief

The CP Division Chief is a member of the AGO's Leadership Team and responsible for contributing to and supporting the overall mission of the Office. The Division Chief will spearhead the Division's enforcement efforts by leading a talented team of attorneys, investigators, paralegals, complaint analysts and professional support staff. In this role, the Division Chief will foster teamwork and collegiality, provide growth opportunities and encourage innovation for the Division's over 115 staff members. Additionally, the Division Chief will provide timely recognition and mentoring and will promote and maintain a diverse, inclusive and welcoming work environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating and working collaboratively with community stakeholders and other Division Chiefs on legal issues and litigation; advising state and federal policymakers on matters relating to consumer protection; managing the division budget and personnel and managing administrative issues in a way that ensures the Division's continued high performance.

Although the position is located in Seattle, travel throughout the state is expected depending on pandemic-related restrictions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful applicant should have:

- At least ten years of experience as a practicing attorney;
- Substantial litigation experience, preferably on the plaintiff side and/or in government enforcement matters;
- Knowledge of consumer protection laws and enforcement actions;
- Substantial experience serving in strong leadership and management roles;
- Superior interpersonal and communication skills;
- A demonstrated ability to manage multiple priorities under pressure;
- Experience providing independent, sound legal advice on a variety of complex issues;
- Sharp and well-developed judgment, both legal and non-legal;

- **A proven understanding of, and commitment to, the role of the public servant;**
- **Experience developing practical solutions, exhibiting proactive and creative problem-solving skills, and maintaining perspective; and**
- **Experience fostering teamwork and sustaining a work environment that values diversity and respect for all employees and recognizes the importance of providing timely recognition and constructive feedback.**

Applicants must have graduated from a law school accredited by the ABA or completed the WSBA's Rule 6 Law Clerk Program and be licensed to practice law in Washington state. The AGO seeks applicants who are committed to public service as demonstrated by an applicant's background, talents, attitude, and enthusiasm for public law practice. The AGO greatly encourages, celebrates and values diversity, appreciating that a workforce composed of those from different backgrounds and experiences creates an inclusive environment, strengthens positive relationships with the local community and brings new perspectives and approaches to fulfill its mission of providing excellent, independent and ethical legal services to the State of Washington and protect the rights of its people.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

All employees and volunteers of the Washington State Attorney General's Office serve a crucial role in the protection of the state, its people and resources, thereby providing a degree of job satisfaction that is incomparable. The AGO is composed of diverse, collegial and supremely talented legal professionals who are resolute in their commitment to public service and share the common goal of advancing the public interest. Minimum salary for this position is \$130,000. However, Division Chief salaries are based on experience, qualifications and are commensurate with comparable positions in the AGO. In that the official duty station of this position is within King County, it is eligible for 5% King County Assignment Pay per legislative action. This position is exempt from representation by the Association of Washington Assistant Attorneys General/Washington Federation of State Employees AFSCME Council 28, AFL-CIO. A competitive state benefits package is also offered which includes a choice of medical/dental insurance plans, retirement, life and basic long-term disability insurance. In addition, there are non-financial benefits that include working in a collaborative and supportive work environment where professional development and work-life balance are highly valued. Complementing and fostering these goals, as well as a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, is evidenced in the AGO's [environmental policies](#).

Interested applicants must apply by hitting the "apply" button above. In addition to the on-line application, one must upload, via the system, **preferably in PDF**:

- A letter of interest;
- Resume;
- Law school transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable); and
- Writing sample.

If you have questions about this position and/or wish to learn more about it before applying, we encourage and welcome you to contact Deputy Todd Bowers at Todd.Bowers@atg.wa.gov. The deadline for receipt of the application and supporting material is January 10, 2021.

Note! The applicants selected will be required to submit to and pass a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by the Washington State Patrol, Criminal Records

Division. The incumbent will submit to additional background checks as a condition of employment every five (5) years thereafter.

Honoring diversity, equity and inclusion means that as an agency, and as individuals, we are committed to ensuring that all employees and volunteers enjoy a respectful, safe and supportive working environment. Only by fostering the inclusion of people from all backgrounds, cultures and attributes, can AGO employees and volunteers achieve their fullest potential and best advance the goals and mission of the AGO.

The AGO is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status, retaliation or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Persons requiring reasonable accommodation in the application process or requiring information in an alternative format may contact Kalea Muigai at 360-586-7698. Those with a hearing impairment in need of accommodation are encouraged to contact the Washington Relay Service at 1-800-676-3777 or www.washingtonrelay.com.

For more information about the AGO, we encourage you to review the Office's Annual Report which can be found **HERE** and view **THIS VIDEO**.

Division Chief - Consumer Protection Division Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. Have you ever worked or volunteered for the Washington State Attorney General's Office? If yes, indicate dates and positions in which you served. If "NO", you will need to indicate "NO" or "N/A" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 2. List all activities or community involvement, past or present, that demonstrate a commitment to public service.

- * 3. Are you a current member of the Washington State Bar Association?
 Yes No

- 4. What is your Washington State Bar Association number?

- 5. It is important to note that to serve as an Assistant Attorney General, one must be a licensed attorney with the WSBA. If seeking admission to the WSBA via reciprocity, score transfer, motion or other means, please explain IN DETAIL when you applied for admission, current status of the application and expected date of admission?

- * 6.

Have you ever been subject to discipline or censure by a Bar Association or other licensing organization? If "YES" provide a full explanation for each disciplinary action. If the answer is "NO" you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 7. Is there any Bar disciplinary proceeding pending against you? If "YES", provide a full explanation. If the answer is "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 8. Have you ever been held in contempt or sanctioned by any state or federal court or administrative agency? If "Yes", provide a full explanation for each action. If the answer is "No" you must indicate this by typing "No" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 9. Have you ever been fired or asked to resign, or resigned in lieu of termination, from any position? If "YES", you must provide a full explanation for each termination. If the answer is "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application.

- * 10. Have you participated, whether as an attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, or in any other capacity, in the representation of any party in a matter where the party's interest was materially adverse to that of the State, its agencies, or its officers or employees? If "YES", please identify all such matters, including the parties to the matter, the court and cause number of the matter, and your role in the matter. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.

- * 11. Have you participated as a judge, arbitrator, mediator, adjudicative officer, or as a law clerk to such a person, in a matter in which the State or any of its agencies, officers, or employees were a party? If YES, please identify all such matters, including the parties to the matter, the court and cause number of the matter, and your role in the matter. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.

- * 12. Is there any other matter, person, entity, or personal interest that might present a conflict of interest or otherwise limit your ability to perform work for the Attorney General's Office or represent a state agency, officer, or employee? If YES, please identify such matters, persons, entities, or personal interests with sufficient detail to allow the Attorney General's Office to understand the nature of the potential conflict of interest. You are not required to disclose any pending or contemplated complaint or dispute for which the law allows you to remain anonymous; however, you are responsible for not accepting assignments that would violate conflict of interest or confidentiality provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other laws with regard to such matters. If "NO", you must indicate this by typing "NO" in order to proceed with your application. If you require additional space, please attach additional sheets and indicate your attachment here.

* 13. Please be advised that the AGO thoroughly checks references, including one's current employer. HOWEVER, it is very important to note that references are ONLY checked after at least one interview. Any concerns about checking references can be discussed during any interview. For the sake of efficiency, we ask that you proactively provide a release by responding affirmatively to the following statement. I authorize the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) to contact any or all of my former or present employers, or organizations for which services have been provided, for the purposes of verification and reference. This may include information of a confidential nature, to include but is not limited to reviewing my personnel file, contacting any references, and/or contacting anyone else who might be familiar with my past job performance. I knowingly and voluntarily release the state of Washington, the AGO, its individual employees, and all my former or present employers, and their individual employees, from any and all known and unknown claims for damages or other relief arising out of the AGO's request for and receipt of employment information, unless my current or former employer is prohibited by state or federal law from disclosing the information that the AGO requests. PLEASE TYPE YOUR FULL NAME IN RESPONSE TO THIS SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO PROVIDE SUCH AUTHORIZATION.

* 14. Have you uploaded all of the required material (i.e., letter of interest, resume, law school transcript and writing sample) with this application?

Yes No

* 15. By clicking "YES" I acknowledge and consent to the fact that a background check consisting of employment history, professional references and educational verification (e.g., degree, license, or official transcript) may be conducted. I also acknowledge and consent to a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by the Washington State Patrol, Criminal Records Division, and acknowledge that said background check will be a condition of employment for this position every five (5) years thereafter.

Yes No

* Required Question