



# U.S. NAVY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

## LAW EDUCATION PROGRAM (LEP)

For the most up to date information, visit the Navy JAGC LEP website here:  
[http://www.jag.navy.mil/careers\\_/careers/opportunities\\_lep.html](http://www.jag.navy.mil/careers_/careers/opportunities_lep.html).

The website contains links to the NAVADMIN, Application Checklist, an FAQ, and instructions for scheduling structured interviews.

### HOW IT WORKS

- The Law Education Program (LEP) gives active-duty Navy officers the opportunity to enter law school, earn the degree of Juris Doctor, and subsequently serve as a career Navy judge advocate. This highly selective program typically accepts just 4-6 Navy officers each year.
- Applicants must take the LSAT and apply to law school. Applicants are encouraged to apply to more than one school, but must apply to at least one law school in which they are eligible for in-state tuition and one school that is close to the officer's current duty station.
- LEPs will remain on active-duty, with pay and benefits, while attending law school and completing the bar examination. Obligated service is two full years for each year or part thereof in the program, in addition to any other obligation, which the individual has incurred.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for appointment in the Navy JAG Corps LEP, you must:

- be a United States citizen of good moral character;
- be on active duty as a commissioned officer;
- be a college graduate;
- be in pay grade O-1, O-2, or O-3 with 2 to 6 years' active-duty service (including any active enlisted time) as of the time of proposed entry into law school;
- be able to complete 20 years of active service as a commissioned officer before your 55th birthday;
- have taken the LSAT and have applied to an American Bar Association (ABA)-accredited law school; and
- comply with all other requirements detailed in the governing instruction (Secretary of the Navy Instruction SECNAVINST 1520.7).

NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED FOR THE ABOVE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

## FIRST TOUR JUDGE ADVOCATE PROGRAM

- Upon reporting to your first duty station you will be a First Tour Judge Advocate (FTJA). As an FTJA, you will rotate through the three core Navy JAG Corps practice areas. An FTJA will spend their first 12 months as a judge advocate split equally between Command Services and Legal Assistance. The second 12 months will be spent honing litigation skills in a military justice rotation as either a defense or prosecution attorney. The FTJA curriculum is intended to cement core competencies through a combination of supervised practice, independent research, cooperative learning, observation, and demonstration of skills.

## SECOND TOUR & BEYOND

- JAG Corps officers can choose diverse career experiences in multiple practice areas or seek a professional specialty such as military justice litigation, environmental law, or international law. There are also opportunities to serve overseas and to deploy at sea as the senior legal advisor to commands of our numbered fleets, Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, and aircraft carriers.
- Wherever assigned, Navy JAG Corps officers perform legal or administrative duties as legal counsel. You might find yourself in a combat zone or on a combatant ship. Although your primary duties will be legal in nature, Navy JAG Corps officers are integral members of the team. Afloat, they participate in the ship's damage control organization and have the opportunity to assist in ship control functions with all members of ships' crew. Ashore, they may serve as a naval station CDO. Senior Navy judge advocates (lieutenant commanders, commanders, and captains) are frequently involved in mission planning and execution, enabling senior Navy commanders to conduct military operations in accordance with law and policy.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Generally, the application process involves the following steps:
  - Complete a structured interview. Your interview must be completed before the application deadline, and you are responsible for contacting the appropriate office to schedule your interview. Your application will not be considered without a completed interview.
  - Send a written request with current contact information and official college transcripts from each school attended via your commanding officer to the address delineated in the NAVADMIN.
  - Submit a completed application by the deadline announced in the applicable NAVADMIN. LSAT Score Reports may be submitted via separate correspondence after the deadline, but must be received prior to the convening of the selection board.
- NOTE: Applicants must provide a prioritized list of ABA-accredited law schools to which the applicant applied. Applicants must apply to at least one law school at which in-state tuition can be obtained and one school near the officer's current duty station.

**If you have additional questions after reviewing this information and our website, please contact us at [navyaccessions@navy.mil](mailto:navyaccessions@navy.mil).**