

10-531402

27/03/12

Job Title : PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER, D1
Department/ Office : Office of Legal Affairs
Location : NEW YORK
Posting Period : 27 January 2012-27 March 2012
Job Opening number : 12-LEG-OLA-22550-R-NEW YORK (O)

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

Org .Setting And Reporting

The position advertised is located in the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) in the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA). The incumbent reports to the Legal Counsel and the Assistant Secretary-General.

Responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Legal Counsel and the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Principal Legal Officer provides legal advice on general questions of international law, the powers and competencies of UN organs and the legislative mandates of UN operations, and assists in the planning and coordination of the administration and management of the Office of the Legal Counsel. The incumbent is expected to:

1. Provide legal advice on the interpretation and application of the UN Charter and other relevant legal instruments.
2. Provide legal advice on complex questions of public international law, in particular, international humanitarian law and human rights law.
3. Provide legal advice on questions of peace and security to Secretariat departments and other UN organs, including, in particular, on legislative mandates and the legal framework for the establishment and functioning of UN operations; in this connection, represents the Office of Legal Affairs in committees, panels and working groups and other internal and international fora.
4. Prepare the legal framework for the establishment and operation of commissions of inquiry into violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, and advise the Secretariat and such commissions on legal issues arising in the course of their activities.
5. Assist the Assistant Secretary-General in the administration and management of the Office of the Legal Counsel, including recruitment, promotion and the preparation of the work plan for the Office.

Competencies

- Professionalism: Knowledge of the United Nations Charter and the law and practice of the Organization; knowledge of international law, in particular in relation to the operation of the Organization; Outstanding analytical and drafting skills. Demonstrated ability to prepare and supervise the preparation of legal briefs and studies on multi-dimensional, complex and

sensitive issues. - Communication: Demonstrated ability to defend and explain difficult issues to senior officials and members of intergovernmental bodies; proven ability to communicate complex concepts orally. Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed. - Client orientation: Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "clients" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; establishes and maintains productive partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions; monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.-Judgment/Decision-making: Identifies the key issues in a complex situation, and comes to the heart of the problem quickly; gathers relevant information before making a decision; considers positive and negative impacts of decisions prior to making them; takes decisions with an eye to the impact on others and on the Organization; proposes a course of action or makes a recommendation based on all available information; checks assumptions against facts; determines that the actions proposed will satisfy the expressed and underlying needs for the decision; makes tough decisions when necessary.-Leadership: Serves as a role model that other people want to follow: empowers others to translate vision into results; is proactive in developing strategies to accomplish objectives; establishes and maintains relationships with a broad range of people to understand needs and gain support; anticipates and resolves conflicts by pursuing mutually agreeable solutions; drives for change and improvements; does not accept the status quo; shows the courage to take unpopular stands. Provides leadership and takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work; demonstrates knowledge of strategies and commitment to the goal of gender balance in staffing.

Education

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in business or public administration, finance, accounting, law, social sciences or related area. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience (17 years) may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

At least 15 years of professional experience in the field of public international law, international relations and international organizations combined with a thorough understanding of the UN system and organization is required.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. Fluency in one (both oral and written) is required. Knowledge of the other is desirable. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish) is an advantage.

Assessment Method

Competency-based Interview and/or other assessment method.

Special Notice

- Staff members are subject to the authority of the Secretary-General and to assignment by him or her. In this context, all staff are expected to move periodically to new functions in their careers in accordance with established rules and procedures.

United Nations Considerations

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8). The United Nations Secretariat is a non-smoking environment.

No Fee

THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS (APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING, PROCESSING, OR TRAINING). THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS' BANK ACCOUNTS.