

WINNING BATTLES IN COMBAT AND IN THE COURTROOMS

You have always had that fighting spirit. It is the determination to battle for what you think is right coupled with an innate desire and natural ability to lead, which represents some of the necessary qualities that make you a strong candidate for Marine Judge Advocate. Once you have proven yourself worthy of becoming a Marine Officer, you will serve your country not only as an officer, but as a Judge Advocate in the United States Marine Corps.



MARINES JUDGE ADVOCATE



UPHOLD THE LAW AS A CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE

As a judge advocate, you are a Marine Officer which means you are a trained leader. Having completed law school and gone through Officer Candidates School and The Basic School, you will begin managing your own caseload and advising Marines on legal issues. Unlike many civilian attorneys who spend the first few years of their careers as second chair to senior attorneys, you will acquire real experience in the courtroom as first chair from the start. Early in your career you will make an impact in a variety of fields, including international, operational, criminal, environmental, fiscal, contract, labor, property, family, and claims and tort litigation law.

PAY AND BENEFITS

Competitive salary, opportunity to travel, 30 days paid vacation, family benefits (free medical coverage, discounts on food/clothing), substantial portion of monthly pay will consist of nontaxable housing and subsistence allowances, competitive retirement.

AREAS OF SPECIALITY:

TRIAL ATTORNEY

As a prosecutor or a defense counsel, you will try cases before a military judge or before a jury of Marines and/or Sailors. You may also argue appellate cases before the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals or the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.



CIVIL LAW/LEGAL ASSISTANCE ATTORNEY/IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

As you gain experience, you may transition to other areas of law, such as civil law and legal assistance, or act as in-house counsel. You will write ethics opinions and research issues pertaining to environmental, fiscal, government contracting, labor and employment, claims and tort litigation law and other legal matters. You will also work closely with Marines and Marine families on family, consumer, tax, estate and immigration law issues.

OPERATIONAL LAW ATTORNEY

You may serve aboard a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), a ship of approximately 2,000 Marines that deploys globally, where you are responsible for all legal matters pertaining to the unit. Or you may deploy with a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) that deploys globally for larger-scale operations, where your responsibilities could include handling Rules of Engagement, Laws of War, Detention Operations, Investigations, Fiscal Law, Government Contracting, Foreign Claims, Military Justice, Host Nation Justice Systems, Legal Assistance and other legal issues that arise in a deployed environment.

JUDGE ADVOCATE PATHS:

PLATOON LEADERS CLASS – LAW

This option is open to first- and second-year law students and to college seniors who have been accepted for full-time study at an ABA-accredited law school.

OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE – LAW

Third-year law students and bar-certified lawyers begin their training at the Officer Candidate Course.

ADVANCED LAW STUDIES:

Upon completion of The Basic School, future Judge Advocates will receive initial instruction on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and the military justice system at the Naval Justice School (NJS) in Newport, Rhode Island. At NJS, students will receive an additional week of instruction during Basic Operational Law Training (BOLT) for advising commanders on operational law matters. Once a Marine has been appointed as a Judge Advocate, they can obtain a Master of Laws Degree (LLM) while attending a civilian university or The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA. Continuing legal education is provided at the government's expense.



COURSES FOR JUDGE ADVOCATES:

A list of professional courses offered by law schools and other institutions available to you throughout your career:

- Criminal Law Advocacy Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (2 weeks)
- Operational Law Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (2 weeks)
- Criminal Law New Developments Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (1 week)
- Law of War Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (1 week)
- Computer Crimes Course – Naval Justice School – Newport, RI (3 days)
- Law of Naval Operations Course – Naval Justice School, Newport, RI (1 Week)
- International Law Course – The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, Montgomery, AL (3 days)
- Advanced Trial Advocacy Course – The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, Montgomery, AL (1 week)
- Prosecuting Complex Cases Course – Naval Justice School, Newport, RI (1 week)
- Claims and Tort Litigation Course – The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, Montgomery, AL (2 weeks)
- Federal Labor Relations Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (1 week)
- Military Judges Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (3 weeks)
- The Judge Advocate Graduate Course – The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA (9 months)

Learn more at Marines.com/officer-judge-advocate