# POSITION DESCRIPTION

**assistant attorney general for the national security division, Department of justice**

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| **OVERVIEW** |
| Senate Committee | Judiciary followed by Intelligence |
| Agency Mission | To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law, ensure public safety against foreign and domestic threats, provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime, seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior and ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans. |
| Position Overview | The assistant attorney general for the national security division is responsible for one of the department's highest priorities: to combat terrorism and other threats to national security. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500(5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Reports to the Attorney General through the Deputy Attorney General |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| Management Scope | In 2015, DOJ had 112,100 full-time equivalents and an annual budget of $33.136 billion. The assistant attorney general oversees nearly 400 employees responsible for protecting the country against international and domestic terrorism, espionage, cyber and other national security threats. |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Responsible for one of the department's highest priorities: to combat terrorism and other threats to national security.
* Manages the department's primary national security elements within a single organizational entity which currently consists of the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review; the counterterrorism and counterespionage sections and a law and policy office.
* Ensures greater coordination and unity of purpose between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies on the one hand and Intelligence attorneys and the intelligence community on the other, thus strengthening the effectiveness of the department's national security efforts.
* Represents the United States before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to obtain authorization under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA) for the United States government to conduct intelligence surveillance activities, such as electronic surveillance, physical searches and pen registers and trap and trace devices.
* Promotes and overseeing a coordinated national counterterrorism and enforcement program, including the investigation and prosecution of international and domestic terrorism cases.
* Leads and providing guidance on the investigation and prosecution of cases involving national security, foreign relations and the export of military and strategic commodities and technology.
* Oversees foreign intelligence, counterintelligence and national security activities to ensure rigorous obedience to the Constitution of the United States and the vigorous protection of individual privacy and civil liberties.
* Oversees the development, coordination and implementation, in conjunction with other components of the Department, as appropriate, of policies with regard to intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism and national security matters.
* Advises the Attorney General, Congress, the Office of Management and Budget and the White House on all areas of national security law.
* Serves as the Department of Justice’s top national security attorney.
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| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** |
| Requirements | * Distinguished legal career
* Extensive management experience
* Substantial national security and criminal law experience
* Understanding of litigation process
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| Competencies | * Ability to resolve differences in opinion with other legal experts in the department
* Ability to manage complex litigation and evaluate litigation risk
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills
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| **PAST APPOINTEES** |
| John Carlin (2014 to 2017) - Chief of Staff to Director Mueller of the FBI; National Coordinator of DOJ’s Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property program; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia |
| Lisa Monaco (2011 to 2013) - Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General; Chief of Staff to FBI Director Comey; Counsel to FBI Director Comey; Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia |
| David Kris (2009 to 2011) - Senior Vice-President, Time Warner; Associate Deputy Attorney General; Attorney of the Criminal Division for the Office of the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia  |

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)