# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Department of justice

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Judiciary |
| 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 chairman leads the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC), a quasi-judicial, independent agency that adjudicates claims of U.S. nationals against foreign governments, under specific jurisdiction conferred by Congress, pursuant to international claims settlement agreements or at the request of the secretary of state. |
| Compensation | Level V $145,700 (5 U.S.C. § 5316)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Associate Attorney General[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | The FCSC had a fiscal 2016 enacted budget of $2.4 million, 11 positions and five attorneys.[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Leads the FCSC * Adjudicates, along with the commissioners, claims against foreign governments for losses and injuries sustained by United States nationals, pursuant to programs authorized by statute or under international agreements * Determines, along with the commissioners, claims of United States nationals for loss of property in specific foreign countries as the result of nationalization or other taking by the governments of those countries; determines claims of any previously unrecognized United States military personnel and civilian American citizens who were held in captured status in the Vietnam conflict, and service information requests relating to the 43 completed international and war claims programs the commission administered previously; and reports to Congress and executive departments on potential programs[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Distinguished lawyer * Previous government experience |
| Competencies | * Strong communication and interpersonal skills * Excellent leadership skills * Ability to work under high pressure and handle sensitive matters * Negotiation skills |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Timothy J. Feighery (2011 to 2014): Attorney Advisor, Office of the Legal Adviser, State Department; Deputy Special Master, September 11, 2001 Victim Compensation Fund, Justice Department; Chief of Section of the Legal Services Branch, United Nations Compensation Commission[[5]](#endnote-5) | |
| Mauricio J. Tamargo (2002 to 2010): Staff Director, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives; Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel, Office of Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, House of Representatives; Staff Director and Counsel, Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives[[6]](#endnote-6) | |

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)
2. https://www.justice.gov/agencies/chart [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.justice.gov/jmd/file/822071/download [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.allgov.com/officials/feighery-timothy?officialid=29651 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Leadership Directories [↑](#endnote-ref-6)