# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, 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 director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is responsible for providing federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to reduce violence against women and administering justice for and strengthening service to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. |
| 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 | OVW’s budget for fiscal 2016 was $736 million.[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to reduce violence against women and administering justice for and strengthening service to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking * Serves as the liaison between the Department of Justice and federal, state, tribal and international governments on matters involving violence against women * Develops the department’s legal and policy positions regarding the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act * Oversees the administration of financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking * Oversees the funding provided to local, state and tribal governments; courts; nonprofit organizations; community-based organizations; secondary schools; institutions of higher education; and states and tribal coalitions that:   + Work toward developing more effective responses to violence against women through activities that include direct services, crisis intervention, transitional housing, legal assistance to victims, court improvement, and training for law enforcement and courts   + Work with specific populations such as elder victims, or persons with disabilities, college students, teens, and culturally and linguistically specific populations * Funds special initiatives in response to areas of special need, which dedicate resources to develop enhancements in areas requiring particular attention or in communities facing particularly acute challenges and enable OVW to explore innovations in the violence against women field and share knowledge that can be replicated nationwide[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Background in criminal justice or the provision of social services to domestic violence victims, or experience as a judicial officer dealing with criminal justice matters or domestic violence issues (helpful) |
| Competencies | * Strong political skills to deal with state and local officials and members of Congress * Beyond reproach ethically, given the role the director plays in handling funds * Ability to work with the media for the role of consciousness-raising |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Susan B. Carbon (2010 to 2012): Family Division Judge, Grafton County Family Division; District Court Judge, New Hampshire[[5]](#endnote-5) | |
| Cynthia Dyer (2007 to 2009): Domestic and Sexual Violence Prosecutor; Member, Public Policy Committee, Texas Council on Family Violence[[6]](#endnote-6) | |
| Diane M. Stuart (2003 to 2006): Member and Spokesperson, National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women; Coordinator, Governor’s Cabinet Council on Domestic Violence, State of Utah; Victim Advocate Specialist, State of Utah[[7]](#endnote-7) | |

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. Leadership Directories [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. https://ballotpedia.org/Susan\_B.\_Carbon [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.vitalvoices.org/about-us/staff [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. https://votesmart.org/public-statement/12292/utahs-diane-stuart-reported-out-of-judiciary-committee#.WJzNGfkrKUk [↑](#endnote-ref-7)