# POSITION DESCRIPTION

**General counsel, Office of the director of national intelligence**

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Intelligence |
| Agency Mission | To lead intelligence integration and forge an intelligence community that delivers the most insightful intelligence possible. |
| Position Overview | The General Counsel is the chief legal officer of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The General Counsel’s mission is to provide accurate and timely legal guidance and counsel to the director and to the Director’s office to ensure all employees and contractors assigned to the office comply with U.S. law and any applicable regulations and directives. The General Counsel’s mission also includes supporting the Director in carrying out his/her statutory responsibility to ensure compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States by elements of the intelligence community that are part of the National Intelligence Program. To this end, the General Counsel works closely with legal officers across the intelligence community to coordinate the development of legal mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of director’s policies and to ensure compliance with applicable law. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | Director of National Intelligence |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | The General Counsel will work closely with counterparts at other intelligence agencies, the legal advisors to the as theAssistanttothePresident for National Security Affairs and State Department and the Department of Justice. |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Provides accurate and timely legal guidance and counsel to the director of national intelligence and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) to ensure the office complies with U.S. law * Assists the Director in his or her responsibility to ensure legal compliance by the intelligence community in general * Works with general counsels throughout the intelligence community to facilitate implementation of ODNI policies and ensure compliance with U.S. law |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Strong legal background with knowledge of the national security field * Experience working on complicated policy and administrative issues * Experience working on matrixed teams and with a cross- section of senior executives |
| Competencies | * Strategic Orientation*:* demonstrates complex thinking abilities, incorporating both analytical and conceptual abilities to manage and develop legal plans and strategies * Results Orientation: demonstrated ability to be proactive, exercise independent judgment and manage multiple projects simultaneously. A strong work ethic and a track record of producing high-quality work under deadline pressures * Team Leadership: experience effectively managing geographically-dispersed staff of legal and administrative support professionals * Collaboration & Influencing*:* proven track record of creating and managing relationships with peer executives inside the organization, outside counsel and third parties/institutions |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Robert Litt (2009-2017): Partner, Arnold & Porter; Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General; Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division | |
| Benjamin Powell (2006-2009): Associate Counsel, White House Counsel’s office, focusing on national security issues; corporate lawyer and litigator; USAF and FBI service | |

# Endnotes

This position description was created with the help of Egon Zehnder, a global executive search firm.

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)