

Mr. L. M. Pellerzi
Chairman, Supergrade Board

October 10, 1968

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Assistant Attorney General
Land and Natural Resources Division

GET

Grades of Section Chief and Expert Attorney Positions.

This is in response to your memorandum of August 8, 1968, requesting the report of this Division describing proposed changes in organization, if any, and recommending positions of Section Chief and Expert Attorney for reclassification to Grades GS-17 and GS-16, respectively.

Additional Position for Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

Before considering reclassification of section chiefs and expert attorney positions, I wish to reiterate the need of this Division for a second Deputy to handle high priority special assignments. The establishment of a Grade GS-17 for this position is the number one supergrade priority of this Division.

Section Chiefs.

This Division has four legal sections: Land Acquisition, General Litigation, Appellate and Indian Claims.

As shown on the attached organization chart of the Division, only the position of Chief of the Land Acquisition Section now is classified as Grade GS-17. The other three Section Chief positions are classified as Grades GS-16.

There do not appear to be any problems with justifying the Grade GS-17 for the Land Acquisition Section. The Section is composed of 37 attorneys and 16 clerical personnel, or a total of 53 employees, and meets the requirement of paragraph 1 of the classification guides as set forth on page 6 of your memorandum.

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Section Ch	
Assistant	
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Assistant	
Title U	
	7 GS-905-
	11 GS-905-
	10 GS-905-
	5 GS-905-
	4 GS-905-
	0 GS-905-

Include
Exclude

Although the positions of Chief of General Litigation and Chief of Appellate are presently classified as Grades GS-16, these positions also clearly meet the classification guides; General Litigation, in that the Section includes in excess of 20 attorneys; and Appellate Section, as the scope of the Section's responsibilities is Division-wide.

Consequently, there is no need to restructure any of these three Sections in order to qualify the positions for a Grade GS-17. It should be noted, however, that earlier this year the General Litigation and Land Acquisition Sections were reorganized by dividing the attorneys into litigation teams to eliminate administrative detail, to provide better opportunities for training of younger attorneys, to provide better litigative support for United States Attorneys' offices, and specialized trial competence in major cases.

The position of Chief, Indian Claims Section, is the only Section Chief position in the Division that does not qualify under either of the criteria. The Chief of the Indian Claims Section supervises only 15 attorneys and the position's responsibility is limited to a single aspect of the Division's activities, viz. defense of Indian tribal claims against the United States. The nature of the Section's assignment is such that organizational changes to qualify this position for classification to Grade GS-17 are not practicable.

Accordingly, I recommend only the positions of Chief, General Litigation Section and Chief, Appellate Section for classification to Grades GS-17, with equal priority.

Expert Attorney Positions.

As discussed above, earlier this year organizational changes were instituted in the General Litigation and Land Acquisition Sections, designed primarily to increase the responsibilities of trial attorneys and to more effectively utilize their professional skills. These attorneys regularly act as chief counsel in the trial of major condemnation cases where the potential liability of the United States is hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of dollars. Similarly, senior attorneys on the General Litigation

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trial teams personally try cases of nation-wide importance, which may have a material effect upon the administration of the country's resources or which may involve title to resources valued at many millions, and in a couple of cases, even billions of dollars.

The attorneys in the Appellate Section handle all of the foregoing matters on appeal.

The position of Chief, Land Acquisition Section, now is in Grade GS-17, and the positions of the Chiefs of the General Litigation and Appellate Sections are proposed for classification to Grade GS-17. Thus, senior attorneys in each of the three Sections meet the requirements for expert attorney classification set forth in your memorandum of August 8, 1968. Therefore, I recommend the following attorney positions be classified Grade GS-16:

First. Three positions for assignment to senior trial attorneys in each of the three Sections, with first priority.

Second. Three positions for assignment to leaders of trial teams in the three Sections (second priority).

Attachment

Land Acqui	
Section Ch	
Assistant	
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Title Ur	
7 GS-905-1	
11 GS-905-1	
10 GS-905-1	
5 GS-905-1	
4 GS-905-1	
0 GS-905-9	

Includes
Excludes

7
5
3

Present Land and Natural Resources Division Grade Pattern

Assistant Attorney General

Deputy Assistant Attorney General
(GS-18)

-----Deputy Assistant Attorney General
(Second Assistant)

(Requested but not yet authorized) (GS-17)

Land Acquisition Section		General Litigation Section		Appellate Section		Indian Claims Section	
Section Chief	(GS-17)	Section Chief	(GS-16)	Section Chief	(GS-16)	Section Chief	(GS-16)
Assistant Chief for Administration	(GS-15)	Assistant Chief (Water Resources Unit)	(GS-15)	Assistant Chief	(GS-15)	Assistant Chief	(GS-15)
Assistant Chief for Operations	(GS-15)	Assistant Chief	(GS-16)	Assistant Chief	(GS-15)		
Assistant Chief for Title Unit	(GS-15)						
7 GS-905-15*		9 GS-905-15*		4 GS-905-15*		9 GS-905-15*	
11 GS-905-14		4 GS-905-14		3 GS-905-14		5 GS-905-14	
10 GS-905-13		7 GS-905-13		1 GS-905-13		1 GS-905-13	
5 GS-905-12		1 GS-905-12		2 GS-905-12			
4 GS-905-11		1 GS-905-11		2 GS-905-11			
0 GS-905-9							
37		23		12		15	Total Attorneys**
16		14		6		13	Total Clerical
53		37		18		28	Total Employees

* Includes Assistant Chiefs

** Excludes Section Chiefs