Hi Shomari,

Hope you are well. I wanted to see if there were any updates regarding my HR processing, salary determination, or clearance waiver. Should I still be operating on the assumption of a May 3 start date? I know there are a lot of moving pieces on your end and there might not be any updates to share yet. My current employer is pushing me for as much clarity as possible, so I want to ensure I'm staying as up to date as I can.

Thanks,

Susan
I have not connected with her yet

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2021, at 2:26 PM, Toll, Theresa (JMD) wrote:

?  

Hi Shomari,

Have you had a chance to discuss Ms. Hennessey’s salary with her? I don’t want to get ahead of you in answering her benefits questions.

Thanks,  
Theresa

Thanks Claudia. Including Theresa who can have the Exec Resources staff follow up on the request below.

Shawn

Shawn Flinn
Human Resources Director/
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer
U.S. Department of Justice
I just received a call from Jose. He will forward the 265 form and in Monday I will send her security waiver packet to SEPS/PERSG. My security liaison has already logged off for today and I’m setting up a new laptop.

I expect a quick approval from PERSG next week.

If I need anything else, I will be sure to let you all know.

Shawn and Valari

Her cell #: [redacted]

Thanks! Have a nice weekend.

Claudia J. Tweed

Claudia J. Tweed | Program Specialist (Security)
US DOJ/JMD/HR Operations/ Staffing and Classification Section

Please let my leadership know how I am doing. Click Here to provide feedback.

On Apr 23, 2021, at 2:49 PM, Flinn, Shawn (IMO) > wrote:

? Thank [redacted] Copying Claudia Tweed so she can advise on next steps.

Shawn

Shawn Flinn
Human Resources Director/
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer
U.S. Department of Justice

Shawn and Valerie: NSD will support the waiver for Susan Hennessey. I see below that we need to submit a Form 265. I will ask Jose Martinez to do that, he’s on leave today but I’m sure he take care of it ASAP. Is there anything else that we need to do at this time? Thanks,
From: Flinn, Shawn (JMD)  
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 9:06 AM  
To:  
Cc: Mulcahy, Valarie (JMD)  
Subject: FW: DOJ Onboarding: Susan Hennessey - Senior Counsel - National Security Division

Good Morning (b) (6)

Just wanted to follow-up on this new political for NSD. Feel free to call if you wish to discuss.

Thanks,
Shawn

Shawn Flinn  
Human Resources Director/  
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer  
U.S. Department of Justice

(cell)

From: Tweed, Claudia J (JMD)  
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 8:37 AM  
To: Flinn, Shawn (JMD)  
Cc: Mulcahy, Valarie (JMD)  
Subject: RE: DOJ Onboarding: Susan Hennessey - Senior Counsel - National Security Division

Good morning Shawn, Theresa, and Valarie,

Shawn – just sending a gentle inquiry/email to follow up to see if you’ve heard back from NSD on their appointee, Ms. Susan Hennessey?

If she’s coming onboard with a waiver, NSD will also need to request a clearance for her, too on form 265. The Security Program Manager within NSD would know about that form. If they forward the 265 to me, I can attach it to her JSTARS file so SEPS/PERSG can process it when they process her security forms.

Claudia J. Tweed

Claudia J. Tweed | Program Specialist (Security)  
US DOJ/JMD/HR Operations/ Staffing and Classification Section

Please let my leadership know how I am doing. Click Here to provide feedback.

From: Flinn, Shawn (JMD)  
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:38 PM  
To: Tweed, Claudia J (JMD)  

Claudia, thanks for flagging this. I reached out to NSD and let you know what I find out.

Shawn

Shawn Flinn

Human Resources Director/
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer
U.S. Department of Justice

Theresa, Valarie, and Shawn,

I just wanted to ask you about something that I spoke to Shomari about... Normally for NSD positions, NSD requires a completed Tier 5 (T5) BI and full clearance to bring someone onboard.

Have you heard from NSD that Ms. Hennessey can be brought onboard with a security waiver and interim clearance? I need to know in writing so I can let SEPS/PERSG know, too.

If NSD says no, it’ll likely be at least a couple of months before her T5 will be completed with the FBI and favorably adjudicated (reviewed and accepted) by PERSG.

Ms. Hennessey has submitted her SF 86 and forms. I’m just waiting for her fingerprints to clear so I can submit her paperwork to PERSG. I just need to know how to proceed:

- With a request for a waiver or
- Submit for a full T5 BI and have Ms. Hennessey wait
- Or are you switching positions and organizations for her then will move her after her T5 is completed? If she changes orgs, I can request a waiver for her.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.
Claudia J. Tweed

Claudia J. Tweed | Program Specialist (Security)
US DOJ/JMD/HR Operations/ Staffing and Classification Section

Please let my leadership know how I am doing. Click Here to provide feedback.
To: Tweed, Claudia J (JMD); Toll, Theresa (JMD); Mulcahy, Valerie (JMD); Flinn, Shawn (JMD)

Subject: Fwd: DOJ Onboarding: Susan Hennessey - Senior Counsel - National Security Division

Susan Hennessey bar info.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Hennessey
Date: April 19, 2021 at 2:43:28 PM CDT
To: "Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Subject: Re: DOJ Onboarding: Susan Hennessey - Senior Counsel - National Security Division

Shomari,

Per our conversation, I am a member of the New York State bar and my Bar Number is 5344643. Below is a screenshot of my current status in good standing. I do not believe I have a physical bar card but I think I can obtain an electronic copy of the card. I will request that now and respond to this email once I have it.

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 2:52 PM Susan Hennessey wrote:

Shomari,

I wanted to touch base regarding timing from here. I haven't heard from HR regarding starting the SF86 form or a salary determination. This Friday and Saturday I will be travelling and unable to access a computer to submit the forms (but I will be reachable by phone). My guess is that deadlines won't fall over the weekend, but I wanted to make sure you were aware of the timing in advance, in case there is a need for me to submit the SF86 within 24 hours of receipt. Please let me know if you need anything else from me to avoid creating additional delay.

Best,
Susan

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:13 PM Susan Hennessey wrote:

Shomari,

The requested information is as follows and attached.

Full Legal Name: Susan Julia Klein Hennessey

I have attached two resume documents. One is my updated resume and
complete CV. Additionally, I have attached a supplementary document, describing in detail my current roles and responsibilities because the precise breakdown of my dual-hatted positions is a bit complex.

Additionally, I have attached a 5 year salary history. My salary includes my Brookings annual salary, CNN annual salary, and aggregated speaking, writing, and teaching fees. I provided both the annual aggregates and the breakdowns. I am currently on vacation and only have access to my tax returns to reconstruct my salary history, since my detailed financial documents are at home and I did not want to delay the process by waiting. I am confident that these numbers did not overstate my annual income, but it may underestimate it slightly.

Please let me know if this documentation is sufficient and if there is anything else I can provide.

Best,
Susan

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 9:42 AM Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG) wrote:

Susan,

Congratulations on the conditional offer to join the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Senior Counsel in the National Security Division!

I am the White House Liaison at DOJ and I will help guide you through the hiring process. To get started, please respond to this email within 24 hours with the below requested information. We will share the information only with DOJ Security and HR.

All candidates must successfully satisfy all conditions of employment required of all DOJ employees, including a background investigation. Additionally, candidates for executive branch appointed positions, including the role for which you are under consideration, must go through a vetting process conducted by the White House Presidential Personnel Office. Therefore, we do not advise notifying your current employer of any plans to leave your current job until you are informed that you have been cleared by both DOJ and the White House. Additionally, we do not advise making any substantial plans or financial commitments based on an expectation of starting this job at DOJ until you are informed that you have been cleared by both DOJ and the White House.

Requested information

Full Legal Name.

Updated Resume. This should be a thorough explanation of your responsibilities in each of your previous positions, especially your most recent role.

5 year salary history. For now, we just need the estimated dollar amount of income for each of the past 5 years. You do not need to submit documentation of the salary history now, but you should go ahead and start gathering that information in case DOJ HR requests it.

What Happens Next?
DOJ Security and HR teams will reach out to you to start the agency process. They will send you several documents you will be required to complete and they will initiate the Form SF-86 process for you through an online portal called E-Qip. This is where you will input the required information for the security process. You will also likely have to schedule appointments for drug testing and fingerprinting.

DOJ HR will review your salary history and resume and make a salary determination that I will call you to discuss. They may also request additional information. Time is of the essence here, so please respond with the requested information **within 24 hours**.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Shomari
Team,

Leadership would like to consider the below candidates for a Counselor role in the National Security Division (NSD) at the Department of Justice. Please let us know if PPO approves the slate or has additional candidates to consider.

**Position:** Counselor  
**Office:** National Security Division  
**Type:** NC-SES  
**Description:** This role will provide senior level legal and policy support to the National Security Division leadership. The Counselor will provide advise and guidance to the Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Assistant Attorneys General on ongoing litigation and other sensitive matters handled in the Division.

**Proposed Candidates**

Susan Hennessy

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
See answers highlighted below. Working on decision memo templates now.

Vacancy sheet for an NSD Counselor role attached. Do I need to submit another one for the second role? It's the exact same position.

Shomari

---

From: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO; Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Cc: Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

Here is what we need to submit this all ASAP this morning. If we don’t get the vacancy sheets or people in apply by today it is going to be very hard to get it in the pipeline for this senior staff review over the weekend/offers as early as Monday if they get thru vet in time.

Action items/questions in bold.

We need the decision memo template filled out for all 6 people by 11:30 ET so we can turn in decision memo that was due yesterday.

[Position], [Agency]
[Name]
[Name] currently serves as [Occupation], [Employer]
Referrals: [List of referral sources *if the role is policy related, please note if relevant policy council was engaged in sourcing or slating*]

NSD

NEED 2 VACANCY SHEETS
2 Senior Counselors in NSD
Only have email address in apply. Can we ask her to submit form ASAP so we can collect more data for vetting team

Susan Hennessey

4 Civ DAAG

Christopher Tenorio Immigrant litigation (interviewed during transition)

- No action item needed
Varu Chilakamarri Tort

- It says Lauren Wetzler is appointed in this Torts position. Is this accurate? No one is appointed as Torts DAAG. Wetzler is not an appointee at all.
- If so, will need 2nd vacancy sheet

- It says Varu is appointed as DOJ Associate AG DAAG. Is that accurate and are we just moving him to Torts position? Varu is not appointed as a DAAG in the Associate’s office. She is not currently an appointee. She is a career DOJ employee in ENRD.
- Varu has very little details in apply. Can we ask him to fill out form again? I will have her submit through apply.

Arun Rao - Consumer Protection (interview during transition)
- Apply says he is already appointed. Is that not accurate? Arun is not appointed. He is not currently a DOJ appointee/employee.

Brian Netter Fed Programs
- No action items needed

-----Original Message-----
From: Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:18 PM
To: Shomari C. Figures; Alivia Rober
Cc: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO; Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO
Subject: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

Just want to make sure you send back the vacancy sheets first thing tomorrow so we can get hiring steps underway before our Decision Meeting. Our memo was due tonight, but I asked Stacy to slip in the latest DOJ staffing requests for single slates so I can get authorization at the meeting. However, in order to put them in the system, we need the vacancy sheets.

Sent from my iPhone
**Vacancy Information**
To be completed by the WHL and approved by the Cluster for all new roles or vacant roles being prioritized for an upcoming search

**Vice**

*Previous office holder, if the role is vacant, please list last known office holder.*

First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Full Name:
Phone Number:
Email:
Apply URL (if applicable):

**Appointment Details**
Position Name: DOJ – National Security Division – Counselor
Short Name: DOJ – NSD – Counselor
Appointment Type: Schedule C
Temporary or Permanent: Permanent
Clearance Required: TS/SCI

**Cluster Position Owner:**

**Functional Area:**

**Vet Level:**

Likely Campaign: No
Max Salary/GS Level: GS 15
Biden Policy Priority: National Security
Min Salary/GS Level: GS 14
First Assistant (if applicable): N/A
Plum Book Salary/GS Level: N/A
Decision Level: Appointee
Policy Priority: National Security
2016 Plum Book: No
2020 Plum Book: No

Slating Detail

Office Description:

Min. 3-5 Sentences
The core responsibilities of the Counsel are to support the work of the Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division by providing legal guidance and strategic advice to office leadership. The Senior Counsel will conduct legal research, case tracking, and monitor developments in both the enforcement and policy spaces at DOJ and across the Administration.

Primary Responsibilities:

Min. 5 bullets
- Track cases and developments within an assigned portfolio
- Conduct legal research on assigned issues
- Monitor relevant events related to the portfolio occurring at other agencies
- Review relevant proposed legislation and regulations
- Prepare briefing materials for office leadership
- Coordinate work within the portfolio with other offices at DOJ.

Candidate Qualifications:

Min. 5 bullets
- Minimum 5 years of legal experience working in national security law or policy
- Excellent legal researcher and writer
- Experience interacting high level government principals
- Familiarity with the work of the National Security Division of the Department of Justice
- Familiarity with the current state of national security related litigation and policy matters
- Experience working with sensitive or classified information
- Ability to obtain a TS/SCI security clearance.
From: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO; Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO; Roberts, Alivia (ODAG)
Cc: Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

Counselor

From: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:37 AM
To: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG); Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO
Cc: Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

Ok confirming the title is Counselor and not Counsel?

From: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO; Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO
Cc: Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

Discussed last night and they want Counselor title.

From: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG); Cortez, Corina EOP/WHO
Cc: Blecha, Isabella C. EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Need Vacancy Sheets

We can just make a copy and label is #2. I thought they were senior counsel? No?

From: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:29 AM
That works

For the bottom 4 should we just do referrals as DOJ leadership?

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (Federal Programs), Department of Justice

Brian Netter

Brian Netter currently serves as a Partner at Mayer Brown.

Referrals: Merrick Garland

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (Consumer Protection), Department of Justice

Arun Rao

Arun Rao currently serves as President at Investigative Group International.

Referrals: Vanita Gupta
Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (Immigration Litigation), Department of Justice

Christopher Tenorio

Christopher Tenorio currently serves as an Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney Office in the Southern District of California.

Referrals:

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (Torts), Department of Justice

Varu Chilakamarri

Varu Chilakamarri currently serves as an Appellate Attorney and Counselor in the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Department of Justice.

Referrals:

Counselor, National Security Division, Department of Justice

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Referrals:

Counselor, National Security Division, Department of Justice

Susan Hennessey

Susan Hennessey currently serves as a Senior Fellow in National Security in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution.

Referrals:
Good Evening

You are clear to make a conditional offer to Susan Hennessey. When you send the email, please CC me and Stacy so that we can track their written response to the offer.

Once Susan gets through your agency process, please send us the following info at least 1 week before they begin: Full Name, Position, Title, Salary Step, Salary dollar amount, Start Date. All of this information should match exactly with what you send to OPM.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mark

Mark Oglesby (he/him)
Staff Assistant
Office of Presidential Personnel | The White House
[a] (9) [b] (6) [c] (7)
Join Us!
Shomari,

It was great talking with you today. I am delighted to accept the conditional offer. I'll be sure to return paperwork expeditiously, so as not to delay the process. As I mentioned, I have one existing commitment on April 26th in my current position and would be able to start at any point after that.

Best,
Susan

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 11:31 AM Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG) wrote:

Susan,

Congratulations again on the conditional offer to join DOJ as Senior Counsel in the National Security Division! I have copied the White House Presidential Personnel Office team to this email.

Please respond to this email within 24 hours accepting or declining the conditional offer. Upon receiving your response, I will follow up with you on next steps.

As a reminder, all candidates must be approved by the White House and DOJ. Therefore, we do not advise notifying your current employer of any plans to leave your current job until you are informed that you are cleared by both DOJ and the White House. Additionally, we do not advise making any substantial plans or financial commitments based on an expectation of starting this job at DOJ until you are informed that you are cleared by both DOJ and the White House.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Shomari
GS 15, Step 5

Hey Shomari what GS number and step is Susan Hennessey?

Confirming that you guys got my corrected information for Susan Hennessey to send to OPM.

Name: Susan Hennessey  
Position: Senior Counsel  
Office: National Security Division  
Appointment Type: Schedule C  
Salary: $163,345  
Start Date: Start date is 5/10/2021

Thanks,
Shomari

Sorry! Correct Susan below!

Name: Susan Hennessey  
Position: Senior Counsel
Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2021, at 3:10 PM, Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WH wrote:

Susan was already sent up but we’ll send up Varudhini tonight

From: Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG)
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Eichner, Stacy EOP/WHO; Oglesby, Mark J. EOP/WHO; Srivastava, Nina C. EOP/WHO

Subject: OPM Approvals

Team,

Can you please send the below candidates to OPM today?

Name: Susan
Position: Senior Counsel
Office: National Security Division
Appointment Type: Schedule C
Salary: $163,345
Start Date: Start date is 5/10/2021

Name: Varudhini Chilakamarri
Position: Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office: Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Appointment Type: NC-SES
Salary: $178,835
Start Date: Start date is 5/10/2021

Thanks,
Shomari
Shomari,

I've received and completed the onboarding forms from HR. I also got an email saying my onboarding will be virtual on Monday. My understanding is that the NSD front office has been working out of the building and I'd imagine there will be a need for classified briefings. Should I plan to work remotely all day Monday or should I report to the building at some point on Monday or later in the week?

Susan

On Wed, May 5, 2021 at 8:53 PM Figures, Shomari C. (ODAG) wrote:

Hi, Susan! HR will be in touch no later than tomorrow. The onboarding will be virtual and they will overnight you equipment most likely. Let me know if you do not hear from anyone by tomorrow.

Shomari

Hi Shomari,

I just wanted to check in and make sure everything is on track for a May 10 start date? I haven't heard from HR at all about onboarding or things like insurance paperwork, etc. Is there someone I should reach out to and confirm? I'm not sure where I'm even supposed to report on day one.

Thanks,

Susan