

LANDS DIVISION - Definition of duties -

From the UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MANUAL-1950.

Executive Departments - JUSTICE -"LANDS."

(P. 162.) "The Assistant Attorney-General in Charge of the Lands Division supervises all suits and matters of a civil nature in the Federal District Courts, in the State Courts and in the Court of Claims relating to lands and real property. This includes condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of real property; actions to remove clouds and to quiet title, to recover possession, to recover damages, to cancel patents, to set aside ad valorem taxes and tax sales, to establish rights in minerals, including mineral leases, in oil reserves, and in other natural resources, to establish and protect water rights, to defend actions for compensation for the claimed taking by the United States of land or any interest in land, whether by eminent domain or otherwise, to defend actions seeking to establish an interest in real property adverse to the United States, and to defend actions for damages to real property caused by the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of Government employees. The Lands Division is also charged with representing the interests of the United States in all civil litigation pertaining to Indians and Indian affairs, including the defense of Indian claims against the United States, whether in the Court of Claims or before the Indian Claims Commission. It defends officers of the United States, handles injunction and mandamus proceedings and litigation arising from war contracts where those matters affect the rights of the United States in the use or title of its real property.

With certain exceptions specified by statute, the Lands Division passes upon the title to all lands acquired by the United States by direct purchase. "