

U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

Do You Want to Be an Assistant United States Attorney?

If you are an attorney or a law student, have you ever thought about what it would be like to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney? AUSAs represent the United States in federal court in the community in which they live. Their job is to seek justice and to do what is right in every case. AUSAs work on important matters that impact public safety, protect civil rights, and support crime victims, while upholding the rule of law in our democratic society. Daily, AUSAs appear in federal court, work with law enforcement agents and agency counsel, write and argue briefs in the U.S. District Court and in the U.S. Court of Appeals, try cases before juries, and collaborate as a team on a wide variety of matters. Attorneys who have served the public as an AUSA routinely call it the best job they've ever had.

I joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California in its Sacramento office in 2002 as an AUSA in the Criminal Division. I worked on proactive criminal investigations with special agents from the DEA, FBI, ATF, IRS, and HSI and with state and local law enforcement agencies, advising agents on wiretaps, search warrants, and other legal process while helping build cases for criminal prosecution. I presented the results of investigations to the federal grand jury and obtained criminal indictments for a range of felony offenses. I represented the United States in district court, litigating bail and detention issues and pretrial motions, trying cases before juries, and representing the government at judgment and sentencing. I handled appeals in my cases to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, researching and writing briefs and arguing before three-judge panels.

Our U.S. Attorney's Office also has an active Civil Division. The federal government needs a lawyer to represent it in federal court as both plaintiff and defendant in civil cases, and we serve that role. Some of our Civil AUSAs bring lawsuits in federal court when the United States' interests are harmed and seek to recover damages. In our district, those suits are often brought to recover for wildfire damage in the national forests and national parks, false claims made in health care and other government programs, and civil violations of controlled substances regulations. Civil AUSAs also defend the United States when federal agencies are sued. Still other Civil AUSAs in our office work to recover restitution for crime victims and to forfeit the instrumentalities and proceeds of crime, seeking to prevent criminals from profiting financially while helping victims recover their losses.

There is nothing more exciting as a lawyer than standing up in federal court and announcing to the judge, "Good morning your Honor, [Your Name] for the United States." Serving our country as a federal prosecutor or a civil litigator in some of the most interesting and demanding cases is both a privilege and an awesome experience. And the United States seeks to hire a diverse group of people from all backgrounds and life experiences, so we welcome and encourage applications from everyone. Our training and mentorship program for new AUSAs is

outstanding, and even after initial training our focus remains on providing professional development opportunities for our AUSAs. Our AUSAs are very accomplished and work very collaboratively, so new AUSAs learn from talented, supportive colleagues. And we encourage and provide opportunities for AUSAs to participate in our office's many community outreach programs, tying all of us closer to the communities and the people we serve.

If I have tempted you to consider becoming an AUSA and you're an active member of any bar in the United States, now is a great time to apply for a position in our office. We have [numerous vacancies listed on our office web site](#), many that were recently created by funding provided by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the U.S. Attorney community. Some vacancies are in Sacramento, and others are in our large, busy Fresno office or in our small Bakersfield office. But don't wait. These vacancy announcements close on August 25, 2023, so send your application in today.

Among the openings are three new AUSA positions dedicated to protecting civil rights. Two will enforce federal criminal laws that protect civil rights, including against color of law offenses and hate crimes, and a third will enforce civil protections of rights relating to housing, accessibility, servicemembers, and other anti-discrimination laws. Another new position will help oversee and improve our office's electronic litigation ("eLitigation") program in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions by training, advising, and guiding our prosecutors and civil litigators as they navigate technological challenges in their cases. Other new positions will be dedicated to protecting the public from violent crime and domestic terrorism, working closely with the FBI and other agencies and providing justice and support to crime victims.

To apply to become an AUSA in this office, please send a resume, cover letter, and recent writing sample via email to USACAE.AUSAHiring@usdoj.gov. The cover letter should be addressed to: United States Attorney's Office, ATTN: Phillip A. Talbert, U.S. Attorney, 501 I Street, Suite 10-100, Sacramento, CA 95814. Your application materials should identify which positions you're applying for. Good luck! We hope to see your application soon.

If you would like to communicate with our office, please contact the main number in Sacramento, or submit a suggestion by clicking on the button below. Thank you.

Phillip A. Talbert
United States Attorney