



Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel

Exam Code: 3PBAP

Department: State of California

Exam Type: Servicewide, Open

Final Filing Date: Continuous

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel – \$14,090.00 - \$16,483.00 per month

[View the Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel classification specification](#)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

Who Should Apply:

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for **nine (9) months**.

How To Apply:

The link to connect to the Training and Experience Evaluation is located farther down on this bulletin in the “Taking the Exam” section.

Special Testing Arrangements:

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability or medical condition, please contact:

California Department of Human Resources
CalCareer Service Center
1810 16th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (866) 844-8671
Email: CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV

California Relay Service: 7-1-1 (TTY and voice)

TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel

Active membership in The California State Bar. (Applicants who are not members of The California State Bar but who are eligible to take the California State Bar examination or are in their final year of law school will be admitted to the examination but will not be considered eligible for appointment until they are admitted to The State Bar.)

Applicants who are six months from meeting the required legal experience will be admitted to the examination, but must meet the total required years of experience prior to appointment.

Nine years of legal experience in the practice of law*; one year of which must have been at a level equivalent to an Attorney 5 or Attorney Supervisor, or three years at a level equivalent to Attorney 4, or four years at a level equivalent to Attorney 3.

* "Legal experience in the practice of law" is defined as: (1) only that legal experience acquired after admission to any State Bar, or (2) experience as a judicial clerk for a federal court, California's state courts, or any other state's courts, or (3) legal experience acquired while practicing under a provisional license to practice law issued by the State Bar of California's Provisional Licensure Program, to constitute experience in the practice of law. For an individual's judicial clerkship to qualify as "legal experience in the practice of law," the experience must have been gained after receipt of a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel

Under general direction of a Career Executive Assignment, Constitutional Officer, exempt appointee of the Governor, or the department's designee, incumbents manage the work of a major legal section; plan, organize, direct, coordinate and review staff work; provide legal advice to the department head; assist the department's highest legal designee in the preparation of pleadings and briefs in connection with legal matters before state boards and agencies; represent their department before boards and agencies; appear before legislative committees to present departmental views on proposed legislation; appear before trial and appellate courts; advise and assist the Attorney General and other state agencies; relieve the department's highest legal designee of administrative and management activities as necessary; and may serve as backup to the department's highest legal designee.

EXAMINATION SCOPE

This examination consists of the following components:

Training and Experience Evaluation – Weighted 100% of the final score.

The examination consists solely of a **Training and Experience Evaluation**. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. Applicants will receive their score upon completion of the Training and Experience Evaluation process.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

Knowledge of:

1. Legal research methods and performing research
2. Legal principles and their application
3. Scope and character of California statutory law and of the provisions of the California Constitution
4. Federal and state statutes and rules
5. Rules of professional conduct
6. Principles of administrative trial and hearing procedure and rules of evidence
7. Court procedures
8. Legal terms and forms in common use
9. Statutory and case law literature and authorities
10. Professional and ethical rules as they relate to the practice of law
11. Appellate proceedings
12. Rules of evidence and conduct of proceedings in trial and appellate courts of California and the United States and before administrative bodies
13. Provisions of laws and Government Code sections administered or enforced
14. A manager's/supervisor's responsibility for promoting equal opportunity in hiring and employee development and promotion, and for maintaining a work environment that is free of discrimination and harassment
15. Principles of public administration, personnel management and supervision

Ability to:

1. Research
2. Analyze, appraise, and apply legal principles, facts, and precedents to legal problems
3. Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action
4. Prepare and present statements of fact, law, and argument clearly and logically in written and oral form
5. Prepare correspondence and memoranda involving the explanation of legal matters
6. Draft opinions, pleadings, rulings, regulations, and legislation
7. Negotiate effectively and conduct crucial litigation
8. Work cooperatively with a variety of individuals, organizations and maintain the confidence and respect of others
9. Independently present difficult and complex cases before Administrative Law Judges

10. Prepare, present, and handle legal cases
11. Direct the work of clerical and professional assistants
12. Edit written documents written by oneself, as well as those produced by others, for accuracy and effectiveness
13. Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action
14. Reason logically
15. Exercise good judgment
16. Effectively plan and engage in discovery, including depositions and interrogatories, and to compel production or attendance of/at same
17. Independently prepare and present difficult and complex cases before boards, commissions, trial courts, and appellate courts
18. Independently present difficult and complex cases before administrative bodies

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A servicewide, open eligible list for the **Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel** classification will be established for the State of California (all State of California departments, statewide).

The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **twelve (12) months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility.

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and [the Veterans' Preference Application](#) (Std. form 1093) is available online. Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Career Credits **will not** be applied to the final score of competitors who are successful in this examination.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

[Preview of the Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel Training and Experience Evaluation](#)

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

Employment History: Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

We recommend using Chrome, Firefox, or Edge for optimal performance when accessing the examination.

[Take the Attorney, Assistant Chief Counsel examination](#)

TESTING DEPARTMENTS

State of California (all State of California departments)

CONTACT INFORMATION

California Department of Human Resources

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

DRUG-FREE STATEMENT

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

General Qualifications: Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.