

Information about Veterans' Preference Eligibility and Attorney Hiring at the Department of Justice

Attorney appointments within the Department of Justice are positions in the excepted service, not the competitive civil service. There is no formal rating system for applying veterans' preference to attorney appointments in the excepted service; however, the Department of Justice considers veterans' preference eligibility as a positive factor in attorney hiring. Applicants eligible for veterans' preference are encouraged to include that information in their cover letter or resume and attach supporting documentation (e.g., the DD 214 or other substantiating documents) to their submissions.

Not all veterans are eligible for veterans' preference. To find out whether you qualify, visit the Veterans' Preference Advisor, operated by the Department of Labor "elaws" at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/vetspref.htm>. For additional information on eligibility, visit www.opm.gov/veterans and review the "Vets Info Guide" and the "Vets Guide."

Preference eligibility is generally limited to those honorably separated veterans who served on active duty (not active duty for training) in the Armed Forces who meet the other specific requirements (e.g., served in a campaign or expedition for which an expeditionary medal is authorized, were awarded a Purple Heart, are disabled, etc.) "Armed Forces" is defined in 5 U.S. Code §. 2101(2) and means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Military retirees at the rank of major, lieutenant commander, or higher, are not eligible for veterans' preference unless they are disabled veterans. (This does not apply to Reservists who do not begin drawing military retired pay until age 60).