Program authorization for: Appointment of Student Program participants as Ensigns in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps in the reserve component (designator 1955) inactive status and ultimately as active duty officers (designator 2500) after bar acceptance and applicable training. The Program Manager is Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC). JAG Corps Officer Community Managers (OCM) are BUPERS-316 (Active) and BUPERS-318 (Reserve).

1. Program authority: Title 10, United States Code 12201 – 12207, 5582.


3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training) in the annual accession plan.

4. Qualifications:

   a. Citizenship: Applicants must be United States citizens. This requirement cannot be waived.

   b. Gender: No restrictions.

   c. Age: Applicants must be at least 21 and be able to complete 20 years of commissioned active duty service by their 62nd birthday.

   d. Education: Applicants must currently be enrolled and are expected to earn a Juris Doctorate from an American Bar Association-approved (ABA-approved) law school, or be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school who has not yet had the opportunity to take the first available bar exam following graduation.

   e. Physical: In accordance with the Manual of Medical Department, Chapter 15. Selectees must maintain eligibility for worldwide assignment.

   f. Marital Status: No restrictions.

   g. Program Specific Requirements: JAG Student Program participants (designator 1955) must be eligible to become members of the Bar of a Federal court or of the highest court of any state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia. Prior to appointment as
designator 2500 and commencing extended active duty, all participants must successfully pass the bar exam of any state, territory, or commonwealth, or the District of Columbia.

5. Accession Source:

   a. Civilians.

   b. Navy officer and enlisted personnel of the Active and Reserve components with an approved conditional resignation/release.

   c. Officer and enlisted personnel of the Active and Reserve component of other armed services with an approved conditional resignation/release.

6. Enlistment: Not applicable

7. Appointment:

   a. Reserve appointment (designator 1955) will be assigned as an Ensign in the Reserves (inactive status).

   b. After bar acceptance and applicable training, entry-grade credit will be awarded towards the active duty appointments (designator 2500). Upon appointment as designator 2500, JAG Student Program participants with no prior commissioned service will be credited with 3 years and appointed as lieutenant junior grade (LTJG) based on entry-grade credit. Participants with prior commissioned service may be credited with up to 1 additional year and may be appointed as lieutenant (LT) based on entry-grade credit. Entry-grade credit is awarded in accordance with OPNAVINST 1120.11 series.

8. Indoctrination: All newly appointed officers will received military orientation training at Officer Development School (ODS), Newport, RI and Basic Lawyer Training at the Naval Justice School, Newport, RI prior to reporting to their first duty assignment.

9. Service Obligation: Officers will incur 4 years of active duty obligation commencing from the completion of ODS and Naval Justice School training.

10. Pay and Allowances: While attending an ABA-approved law school, students will remain in an IRR status, except when called to active duty for training. Upon appointment as
designator 2500 and commencing extended active duty, officers will receive pay and benefits based on paygrade outlined in paragraph 7.b.

Approved: 

JOHN B. NOWELL, JR., RADM, USN
Director, Military Personnel
Plans and Policies Division (N13)

Date: 4/17/2017