Program Authorization: Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps, Designator 2505, Reserve Component (RC) Direct Commissioning Officer (DCO) Program. The JAG Corps DCO Program provides an opportunity for exceptional and qualified civilians with prior Active Component (AC) or RC officer or enlisted service and current Reserve officer and enlisted personnel the ability to apply for an appointment as a Navy Reserve JAG Corps Officer. BUPERS-351 is the Reserve Officer Community Manager. The Program Manager is Office of the Judge Advocate General (OJAG) Code 61, as coordinated by the Navy Reserve Law Program Manager.

1. Program Authority. Title 10 U.S. Code sections 12201 through 12209, OPNAVINST 1120.3B and OPNAVINST 1120.11A.


3. Quota. As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education) in the annual Selected Reserve (SELRES) officer 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 less than 42 years of age at time of commissioning. Waiver requests will be considered for prior qualifying enlisted service, year-for-year credit up to age 52.

   d. Education: Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a college or university listed in the Directory of Accredited Institutions of Post-Secondary Education, the Higher Education Directory (published annually by Higher Education Publishing Incorporated), or The New York State Board of Regents accrediting agency. Additionally, applicants are required to have their Juris Doctor (JD) from an American Bar Association (ABA) approved law school at the time of graduation.

   e. Physical: Applicants must meet all physical requirements prescribed in chapter 15 of NAVMED P-177, Manual of the Medical Department, at the time of appointment.

   f. Marital Status: No restrictions.

   g. Program Specific Requirements:

      (1) Licensure: Applicants must be a member in good standing of the bar of a federal court or the highest court of a state, territory, commonwealth or the District of Columbia.
(2) Time-in-Service: Applicants must have served on active duty for a cumulative period of at least one year, which may include any combination of active duty orders.

(3) Military Experience: Applicants must submit copies of performance evaluations or fitness reports from the last 3 years of their most recent AC or RC service. Applicants must include a description of prior military service, military positions held, military training and military education completed in their résumé or curriculum vitae. Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) and any other previous military service discharge records must be provided.

5. Accession Sources

a. Prior service officer and enlisted personnel from the AC or RCs of any service of the United States armed forces.

b. Current officer or enlisted personnel in the RC of any service of the armed forces provided an appropriate conditional release is authorized.

6. Indoctrination. DCOs must complete the 2-week Direct Commission Officers Indoctrination Course (DCOIC) held at Newport, RI, within 1 year of commissioning. DCOs must also complete the Naval Justice School Basic Lawyer Course within 2 years of commissioning.

7. Enlistment. Not applicable.

8. Appointment. Applicants will be provided entry grade credit (constructive service credit for obtaining a JD degree and prior commissioned service credit if applicable) based on the computation rules provided in OPNAVINST 1120.11A.

9. Service Obligation

a. Eight-years Ready Reserve obligation. The initial 6 years must be completed as a SELRES in a PAY 1 status. The obligation commences upon commissioning.

b. Must maintain eligibility for worldwide assignment.


Approved: 

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

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