



Attorney
Class Code: 5778 – Exam Code: 8PB57

Departments: State of California
Opening Date: 9/26/2009
Final Filing Date: Continuous
Type of Examination: Servicewide , Open
Salary: \$4,886.00 to \$8,512.00

EEO

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.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Applicants who meet the Minimum Qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this Qualifications Assessment at any time.

Once you have taken the Qualifications Assessment, you may not retake it for nine (9) months.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

Where to Apply: Click the link at the bottom of this bulletin.

SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

If you have a disability and need special assistance or special testing arrangements, contact the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR), Examinations Unit at (866) 844-8671, or via the California Relay Service for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing at (800) 735-2929 from TTY Phones and (800) 735-2922 from voice phones.

SALARY INFORMATION

Salary Criteria: An incumbent's salary is based on the Alternate Range Criteria 217 identified below: Experience gained outside State service may be credited only if the appointing power believes the experience was satisfactory and comparable in type and quality to that of an Attorney. When the requirements for the particular criteria are met, and upon recommendation of the appointing power, the employee shall receive a rate under the provisions of the Department of Personnel Administration Rule

599.676.

- **Range A \$4,886 - \$5,082:** This range shall apply to individuals who are active members of The State Bar of California and who do not meet the criteria for payment in Range B, C, or D.
- **Range B \$4,891 - \$5,585:** This range shall apply to individuals who are active members of The State Bar of California, and who, in addition, have satisfactorily completed one year of legal experience in the practice of law*.
- **Range C \$5,895 - \$7,414:** This range shall apply to individuals who are active members of The State Bar of California, and who, in addition, have satisfactorily completed two years of legal experience in the practice of law*.
- **Range D \$6,636 - \$8,512:** This range shall apply to individuals who are active members of The State Bar of California and who, in addition, have satisfactorily completed four years of legal experience in the practice of law*.

*Experience in the “practice of law” or “performing legal duties” 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, to constitute experience in the “practice of law”. For an individual’s judicial clerkship to qualify as experience in the “practice of law” or “performing legal duties”, the experience must have been gained after receipt of a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.

When the requirements for the particular criteria are met, and upon the recommendation of the appointing power, the employee shall receive a rate under the provisions of DPA Rule 599.676.

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

An open, service wide eligible list will be established by the California Department of Human Resources for use by other State departments. The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of test date. **Eligibility expires 12 months after it is established.** Competitors must then retake the Qualifications Assessment to reestablish eligibility.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION

NOTE: All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this examination bulletin as of the date the test is taken.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

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.)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

This is a recruitment and developmental class for persons qualified to practice law in the State of California. Attorneys assigned to Range A perform the least difficult professional legal work of their department. Based upon the appropriate Alternate Range Criteria, attorneys advance to Range B, C, and D and are assigned progressively more difficult professional legal work as their competence increases. Attorneys assigned to Range D independently perform professional legal work of average difficulty.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Online Qualifications Assessment – Weighted 100%

The examination will consist solely of a Qualifications Assessment. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. An applicant will receive his/her score upon completion of the Qualifications Assessment process.

[Click here to preview the Qualifications Assessment.](#)

In addition to evaluating the competitor's relative abilities as demonstrated by quality and breadth of experience, emphasis in the examining interview will be on measuring competitively, relative to job demands, each competitor's Knowledge and Abilities, as stated on this bulletin.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

1. Proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure to ensure that written materials prepared and reviewed are complete and free of errors.
2. Available research sources, both printed and electronic, to complete legal research, including what types of material they contain, where they are located, and their breadth, depth, and relative strengths and weaknesses (e.g., primary legal texts, secondary legal texts, and electronic databases).
3. How to conduct legal analysis (e.g., issue-spotting, rule analysis, applying law to facts) to ensure relevant issues and information are identified and correlated with applicable law, and to aid in predicting the legal outcome.
4. The principles and practices for properly conducting legal research, such as ensuring law is current (i.e., "Shepardizing") and checking for recent amendments to statutes.
5. Trial and hearing procedures and rules of evidence in order to formulate and effectively apply legal strategy and advise the agency representatives and/or clients on legal options.
6. Professional ethical rules as they relate to the practice of law and particularly the role of public attorneys.
7. Substantive areas of law that apply to public entities (e.g., Due Process, Privacy, record disclosure laws).
8. The general principles of jurisprudence such as statutory construction and stare decisis.

Ability to:

1. Communicate effectively in writing in a courteous, professional manner with a variety of individuals, taking into consideration their needs and using tone, vocabulary, format, and grammar appropriate to the circumstance.
2. Prepare clear and effective persuasive legal documents (e.g., briefs, motions, pleadings).
3. Prepare clear and effective technical and analytical legal documents (e.g., contracts, stipulations, memoranda, determination letters, and regulations).
4. Produce effective written communication of legal principles, facts, and position(s) for various audiences and forums.
5. Effectively communicate in writing through the use of appropriate grammar, spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, and sentence and paragraph structure required to complete assigned projects.
6. Edit written documents for accuracy and effectiveness.
7. Properly identify the nature of legal issues, generate alternatives, and implement solutions and approaches that successfully address the issues.
8. Determine the appropriate amount of time to complete research/investigation.
9. Effectively analyze and respond to legal arguments.
10. Analyze information and detect potential logical, legal, and/or factual flaws in arguments or assumptions.
11. Reason, research, investigate, and plan the development of a project, case, or matter.
12. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of an individual during an interview or deposition in order to evaluate their potential contribution to the case (e.g., as a witness, consultant, source of information).
13. Identify and prioritize critical issues to effectively resolve the question or matter.
14. Identify legal issues, propose alternatives, and implement solutions.
15. Read and comprehend a variety of difficult materials such as local, state, and federal law; critical analyses; dissertations; position papers; technical treatises, etc.
16. Read and comprehend legal documents (e.g., contracts, statutes, regulations, legal rulings, case law).

17. Negotiate settlements on behalf of the Department.
18. Orally communicate information effectively, convincingly, and accurately.
19. Present cases before State and Federal Courts, and administrative agencies.
20. Effectively orally communicate legal principles, facts, and position(s) to various audiences and forums.
21. Communicate effectively with individuals who are reluctant, afraid, and/or anxious, and whose input and/or participation may be needed to complete a work assignment (e.g., eye witnesses).
22. Successfully complete multiple projects simultaneously within appropriate time frames while maintaining a high level of work performance.

BENEFITS

- Employer/employee paid health and dental insurance
- Employer paid vision insurance
- Paid Vacation/Sick/Annual Leave Benefits
- 12 paid holidays
- Employer paid disability insurance
- Defined Benefit Retirement Program (upon vesting)
- Employee paid deferred compensation program (401K and 457)
- Flexible work schedules and work hours
- Pre-tax reimbursement for medical care, child care, and parking programs
- Employee Assistance Program
- Career development/professional advancement

VETERANS' PREFERENCE

Effective January 1, 2014, Veterans' Preference will be awarded to qualifying Veterans who are successful in the examination in the form of Rank placement rather than points. All individuals awarded Veterans' Preference will be certified in Rank 1 of the eligibility list, regardless of score. All open exams/eligible lists will award Veterans' Preference, regardless of the classification.

CAREER CREDITS

Career Credits will not be added to the final score for this exam, because it does not meet the requirements to qualify for Career Credits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions concerning this examination bulletin, please contact:

California Department of Human Resources
Attn: Examination Services
1515 "S" Street, North Bldg., Ste. 400
Sacramento, CA 95811
1-866-844-8671
California Relay Service: 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2922 (Voice)

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications are available at www.jobs.ca.gov, State Personnel Board offices, and local offices of the Employment Development Department.

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 on this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined

job-related rating, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

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

Candidates needing special testing arrangements due to a disability must mark the appropriate box on the application and contact the testing department.

Hiring Interview Scope: In a hiring interview, in addition to the scope described in this bulletin, the panel will consider education, experience, personal development, personal traits, and fitness. In appraising experience, more weight may be given to the breadth and recency of pertinent experience, and evidence of the candidate's ability to accept and fulfill increasing responsibilities than to the length of his/her experience. Evaluation of a candidate's personal development will include consideration of his/her recognition of his/her own training needs; his/her plans for self-development; and the progress he/she has made in his/her efforts toward self-development. For more information, you may refer to the [Attorney Classification Specification](#).

General Qualifications: Candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, 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) service-wide promotional, 5) departmental open, and 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.

Veterans' Preference: Effective January 1, 2014, Veterans' Preference will be awarded as follows: 1. Any veteran, widow or widower of a veteran, or spouse of a 100 percent disabled veteran, who achieves a passing score in an entrance examination, shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligibility list. Any veteran who has been dishonorably discharged or released is not eligible for Veterans' Preference. 2. An entrance examination is defined, under the law, as any open competitive examination. And 3. Veterans' Preference is not granted once a person achieves permanent civil service status. (Government Code Section 18973.1)

Veteran status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Directions to apply for Veterans' Preference are on the Veterans' Preference Application (Std. Form 1093), which is available [online](#), and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bulletin Revision Date: 07/07/2017

TAKING THE EXAM

When you click the link below, you will be directed to the Qualifications Assessment. At the end of the Qualifications Assessment, it will be instantly scored.

[Click here to go to the Qualifications Assessment.](#)