

**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SET # 1**

Experience, Training, and Career Path of SVCs

25. Services: How are SVCs selected? Among currently serving SVCs, how many (or what percentage) requested assignment to the program?

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| USA | <p>Special Victim Counsel are legal assistance attorneys who are appointed based on their maturity and judgment. Special Victim Counsel are nominated by their SJA and certified by the TJAG. Three of the current SVCs requested assignment to the program.</p> |
| USAF | <p>The Air Force has implemented a formal process to nominate and select the "best qualified" SVCs, including outlining a list of selection criteria for these sensitive positions. This selection criteria includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The candidate's court-martial experience (the number courts-martial tried; a breakdown of litigated, partially litigated, and guilty plea trials; types of offenses tried; extent of participation in the trials; evaluation of the candidate's interactions with witnesses and victims) 2. Other litigation experience (discharge boards, civil litigation, and prior litigation experience before joining the JAG Corps) 3. SVC unique qualities (the candidate's ability to be non-judgmental and empathize with victims, to be sensitive to the difficulties a victim may go through emotionally, mentally, and physically; to understand the sensitivities of family members - especially when representing child victims) 4. Ability to work well with other agencies (SARCs, Victim Advocates, Mental Health providers, OSI, other counsel, guardians, etc.) 5. Ability to be grounded with the highest ethical standards; 6. Leadership qualities and other training; and 7. Personal desire to be an SVC. <p>These nominations by supervisors are routed through the functional chain of command at the Numbered Air Force (NAF) and Major Command (MAJCOM) levels and vetted through the SVC Program Chief for comment/concurrence/non-concurrence. Based on this information, The Judge Advocate General decides whether to assign the candidate to the position. At the inception of the SVC pilot program, the AF was not permitted to change the judge advocates' duty location via permanent change of station (PCS). Therefore, we were required to utilize personnel from local legal offices. During the pilot program, we did not have any non-volunteers for the position. As the program continues to evolve, we are now permitted to PCS judge advocates worldwide and can select SVCs on a "best qualified" basis. Since the beginning of this worldwide nomination and selection process, all judge advocates recommended for SVC positions have been volunteers.</p> <p>Attached are three model JAG SVC nomination forms. (Atchs 25.1-25.3)</p> <p>ATTACHMENTS:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atch 25.1 –SVC Nomination Form (Sample 1) - Atch 25.2 –SVC Nomination Form (Sample 2) - Atch 25.3 –SVC Nomination Form (Sample 3) |
| USN | <p>Navy VLC are selected based on desire to be a VLC, experience level, professional maturity, and interpersonal skills. All candidates have to be professionally recommended for the program. Interviews of potential VLC are conducted by the VLC Chief of Staff or Deputy Chief of Staff and the Judge Advocate General of the Navy personally approves every candidate. Over 90% of current VLC requested assignment to the program.</p> |
| USMC | <p>The Officer in Charge (OIC) of each Marine Corps Legal Services Support Section (LSSS) nominates judge advocates to the OIC, VLCO for Regional Victims’ Legal Counsel (RVLC) and Victims’ Legal Counsel (VLC). The OIC, VLCO conducts a screening process of the nominated judge advocate by reviewing their biography and Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) to determine military justice experience and temperament for the position. If the OIC LSSS and OIC VLCO cannot agree on a particular RVLC or VLC, then the matter will be forwarded to the SJA to CMC for resolution. The Marine Corps policy is that VLC serve for a minimum of 18 months before being reassigned.</p> <p>All current VLCO personnel were selected by name and accepted assignment as directed. Billets are not assigned on a volunteer basis.</p> |
| USCG | <p>SVC selection is based on a combination of those volunteering for the assignment in response to a solicitation for interested judge advocates and selection for assignment during the normal assigned process, which is based on officer input and the needs of the service. Over 90% of the current SVCs volunteered for the assignment.</p> |