

§ 515. Authority for legal proceedings; commission, oath, and salary for special attorneys

(a) The Attorney General or any other officer of the Department of Justice, or any attorney specially appointed by the Attorney General under law, may, when specifically directed by the Attorney General, conduct any kind of legal proceeding, civil or criminal, including grand jury proceedings and proceedings before committing magistrate judges, which United States attorneys are authorized by law to conduct, whether or not he is a resident of the district in which the proceeding is brought.

(b) Each attorney specially retained under authority of the Department of Justice shall be commissioned as special assistant to the Attorney General or special attorney, and shall take the oath required by law. Foreign counsel employed in special cases are not required to take the oath. The Attorney General shall fix the annual salary of a special assistant or special attorney.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 613; amended Pub. L. 101-650, title III, §321, Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5117; Pub. L. 107-273, div. A, title II, §203(b), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1775.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Rows include (a) 5 U.S.C. 310, (b) 5 U.S.C. 315, and [Uncodified] entries with various dates and statute references.

In subsection (a), the words "or counselor" are omitted as redundant. The words "United States attorneys" are substituted for "district attorneys" on authority of the Act of June 25, 1948, ch. 646, §1, 62 Stat. 909. The words "any provision of" are omitted as unnecessary.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-273 struck out "at not more than \$12,000" before period at end.

CHANGE OF NAME

Words "magistrate judges" substituted for "magistrates" in subsec. (a) pursuant to section 321 of Pub. L. 101-650, set out as a note under section 631 of this title.

§ 516. Conduct of litigation reserved to Department of Justice

Except as otherwise authorized by law, the conduct of litigation in which the United States, an agency, or officer thereof is a party, or is interested, and securing evidence therefor, is reserved to officers of the Department of Justice, under the direction of the Attorney General.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 613.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row includes 5 U.S.C. 306 and R.S. §361, Sept. 3, 1954, ch. 1263, §11, 68 Stat. 1229.

The section is revised to express the effect of the law. As agency heads have long employed, with the approval of Congress, attorneys to advise them in the conduct of their official duties, the first 56 words of R.S. §361 and of former section 306 of title 5 are omitted as obsolete.

The section concentrates the authority for the conduct of litigation in the Department of Justice. The words "Except as otherwise authorized by law," are added to provide for existing and future exceptions (e.g., section 1037 of title 10). The words "an agency" are added for clarity and to align this section with section 519 which is of similar import. The words "as such officer" are omitted as unnecessary since it is implied that the officer is a party in his official capacity as an officer.

So much as prohibits the employment of counsel, other than in the Department of Justice, to conduct litigation is omitted as covered by R.S. §365, which is codified in section 3106 of title 5, United States Code.

§ 517. Interests of United States in pending suits

The Solicitor General, or any officer of the Department of Justice, may be sent by the Attorney General to any State or district in the United States to attend to the interests of the United States in a suit pending in a court of the United States, or in a court of a State, or to attend to any other interest of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 613.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row includes 5 U.S.C. 316 and R.S. §367.

§ 518. Conduct and argument of cases

(a) Except when the Attorney General in a particular case directs otherwise, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General shall conduct and argue suits and appeals in the Supreme Court and suits in the United States Court of Federal Claims or in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and in the Court of International Trade in which the United States is interested.

(b) When the Attorney General considers it in the interests of the United States, he may personally conduct and argue any case in a court of the United States in which the United States is interested, or he may direct the Solicitor General or any officer of the Department of Justice to do so.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 613; amended Pub. L. 96-417, title V, §503, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1743; Pub. L. 97-164, title I, §117, Apr. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 32; Pub. L. 102-572, title IX, §902(b)(1), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4516.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row includes 5 U.S.C. 309 and R.S. §359.