

§ 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.

The words “and writs of error” are omitted on authority of the Act of Jan. 31, 1928, ch. 14, §1, 45 Stat. 54. The word “considers” is substituted for “deems”.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-572 substituted “United States Court of Federal Claims” for “United States Claims Court”.

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-164 substituted “United States Claims Court or in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “Court of Claims”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-417 required the Attorney General and the Solicitor General to conduct and argue suits in the Court of International Trade.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-572 effective Oct. 29, 1992, see section 911 of Pub. L. 102-572, set out as a note under section 171 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-164 effective Oct. 1, 1982, see section 402 of Pub. L. 97-164, set out as a note under section 171 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-417 effective Nov. 1, 1980, and applicable with respect to civil actions pending on or commenced on or after such date, see section 701(a) of Pub. L. 96-417, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

§ 519. Supervision of litigation

Except as otherwise authorized by law, the Attorney General shall supervise all litigation to which the United States, an agency, or officer thereof is a party, and shall direct all United States attorneys, assistant United States attorneys, and special attorneys appointed under section 543 of this title in the discharge of their respective duties.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 614.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
.....	28 U.S.C. 507(b).	[None].

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 “or officer” are added for clarity and to align this section with section 516 which is of similar import.

The words “special attorneys appointed under section 543” are substituted for “attorneys appointed under section 543” to reflect the revision of this title.

INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF ESPIONAGE PROSECUTIONS

Pub. L. 108-177, title III, §341(b), Dec. 13, 2003, 117 Stat. 2616, as amended by Pub. L. 108-458, title I, §1071(g)(3)(A)(v), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3692; Pub. L. 109-177, title V, §506(a)(9), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 248; Pub. L. 115-31, div. N, title IV, §401(g), May 5, 2017, 131 Stat. 819, provided that: “The Attorney General, acting through the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, and in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, acting through the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, shall establish policies and procedures to assist the Attorney General in the consideration of intelligence and national security-related equities in the development of charging documents and related pleadings in espionage prosecutions.”

USE OF ANNUITY BROKERS IN STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS

Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title I, §11015, Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1824, provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND TRANSMISSION OF LIST OF APPROVED ANNUITY BROKERS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 2, 2002], the Attorney General shall establish a list of annuity brokers who meet minimum qualifications for providing annuity brokerage services in connection with structured settlements entered by the United States. This list shall be updated upon request by any annuity broker that meets the minimum qualifications for inclusion on the list. The Attorney General shall transmit such list, and any updates to such list, to all United States Attorneys.

“(b) AUTHORITY TO SELECT ANNUITY BROKER FOR STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS.—In any structured settlement that is not negotiated exclusively through the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, the United States Attorney (or his designee) involved in any settlement negotiations shall have the exclusive authority to select an annuity broker from the list of such brokers established by the Attorney General, provided that all documents related to any settlement comply with Department of Justice requirements.”

CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND TRACKING SYSTEMS FOR FEDERAL JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT; PREPARATION, SUBMISSION, ETC., OF PLAN

Pub. L. 96-132, §11, Nov. 30, 1979, 93 Stat. 1047, required the Attorney General, not later than Apr. 15, 1980, after consultation with the Director of the Executive Office of United States Attorneys and such Assistant Attorneys as appropriate, to prepare and submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the activation and coordination, within the Department of Justice, of compatible, comprehensive case management information and tracking systems for each of the judicial districts of the United States and for each of the divisions of the Department.

REPORT TO CONGRESS REGARDING PROVISIONS OF LAW CONSIDERED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; DECLARATION OF SUCH POSITION

Pub. L. 96-132, §21, Nov. 30, 1979, 93 Stat. 1049, required the Attorney General, during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1980, to transmit a report to each House of Congress in any case in which the Attorney General considered the provisions of law enacted by the Congress and at issue to be unconstitutional and in such cases required a representative of the Department of Justice participating in such case to make a declaration that such opinion of the Attorney General regarding the constitutionality of those provisions of law involved constitutes the opinion of the executive branch of the government with respect to such matter.

Similar provisions were contained in Pub. L. 95-624, §13, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3464.

STUDY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON EXTENT TO WHICH VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAWS ARE NOT PROSECUTED

Pub. L. 95-624, §17, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3465, provided that the Attorney General undertake a study and make recommendations concerning violations of Federal criminal laws which have not been prosecuted and present such study and recommendations to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than Oct. 1, 1979.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12778

Ex. Ord. No. 12778, Oct. 23, 1991, 56 F.R. 55195, which prescribed guidelines for promotion of just and efficient Government civil litigation and set forth principles for enactment of legislation and promulgation of regula-