



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Building  
1162 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4096  
Telephone: (503) 378-6002

January 31, 2023

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

The Department of Justice made a presentation to the Subcommittee on Education about the Department of Justice Legal Rate on January 30, 2023. During that presentation, Representative Emily McIntire asked about the status of DOJ's attorney positions in terms of vacancies.

Please be advised that the DOJ current vacancy rate for attorneys is 8.9%.

In the recent and current labor market, recruitments for attorneys to do specialized legal work can take additional time as we endeavor to attract candidates with experience that matches the needs of our clients. As a result, some vacancies persist longer than DOJ would desire and add to the vacancy rate.

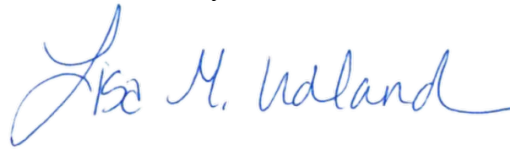
In addition, some DOJ budget requests propose adding attorney positions with starting dates that are phased-in later in the biennium to coincide with an anticipated new or increased workload. Such delayed-start positions will show up as vacant because the position has been authorized by the Legislature, but the position was budgeted/funded to start later in the biennium. Currently, at least one division is in the early stages of recruiting for positions that were phased in during late 2022.

Overall, many of our vacant attorney positions are in some stage of recruitment and we have been extremely pleased with the quality of the candidates we have been able to hire despite the challenging job market.

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We hope this answers the question. Please contact us if other questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Udland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being the most prominent.

LISA M. UDLAND  
Deputy Attorney General

cc: William O'Donnell, DOJ Chief Financial Officer  
Jennifer Friesen, DOJ Senior Budget Analyst