



Solicitor General Candidate Brief

February 2026





Robert MacRae

Bailiff

The position of Solicitor General of Jersey will fall vacant in March 2026 upon the promotion of the incumbent Solicitor General, Mr Matthew Jowitt KC, to the office of Attorney General.

The Solicitor General is a key member of the Law Officers' Department, influencing the ongoing development of Jersey's legal and constitutional identity, and contributing meaningfully to the island's continued success as a secure and self-governing jurisdiction.

The position provides the opportunity to work within a collaborative and forward looking culture, helping strengthen Jersey's institutional visibility, foster engagement within the wider island community, and play a key role in safeguarding the values and distinctiveness that define Jersey's position in the world.

The information in this document includes; a full job description, terms and conditions of service and details of how to apply. The information sets out the criteria to be satisfied by an applicant should you be minded to apply for the post, together with the process for the submission of applications and the closing date.

All applications will be considered by a panel co-chaired by the Bailiff and a Commissioner from the Jersey Appointments Commission. The panel will engage in the customary process of consultation with Members of the Royal Court and a panel of States Members. The Selection Panel will interview the applicants and assess them against the qualities and abilities listed in the job description.

The consultations and interviews will take place on 27 / 30 March 2026. A recommendation will subsequently be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor for onward transmission to the Lord Chancellor and His Majesty The King.

Robert MacRae, Bailiff



Appointment of Solicitor General

Applications are invited for the position of Solicitor General, which will fall vacant in March 2026.

The Solicitor General is a Crown appointment and supports the work of the Attorney General in all legal matters as chief law officer of the Island of Jersey. The Solicitor General also deputises for the Attorney General in matters pertaining to his role and acts as Attorney General in his absence from the Island or otherwise. The work is varied and complex and spans a broad range of legal advisory functions to the Crown, the States Assembly, Ministers, Scrutiny Panels and other public bodies, and to assist individual States members in the exercise of their public functions. The Solicitor General supports the Attorney General who has responsibility for leading the Law Officers' Department in the delivery of its key services as a non-ministerial department in the public sector.

Further details are available on request from Steve Cartwright MBE the Bailiff's Chambers, Royal Court House, Royal Square, St. Helier (telephone 441107 or e-mail at s.cartwright@courts.je).

Letters of application should be returned to His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor at Government House for the attention of Justin Oldridge (Chief of Staff for the office of the Lieutenant Governor) either by email to j.oldridge@gov.je or via post to Government House, St Saviour, JE2 7GH by 17:00 on 13 March 2026.

The Law Officers' Department

The Law Officers are the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. The Attorney General is the senior Law Officer of the Crown. The Solicitor General performs any of the Attorney's functions as authorised by the Attorney General.

The main functions of the Law Officers Department include:

- Providing legal advice to the Government, States Assembly and the Crown
- Providing the independent public prosecution service for the Island
- Protecting the interests of the Crown and the Government in civil proceedings
- Helping to safeguard children and adults at risk
- Enabling the forfeiture and confiscation of the proceeds of crime
- Assisting overseas law enforcement agencies
- Carrying out the statutory and customary law duties of the Attorney General

Further information can be obtained from www.lawofficers.je



The Law Officers' Department has scored highly in the Best Companies Be Heard staff engagement surveys since these were first undertaken across all States departments in 2020 and in 2025 the department received accreditation from Best Companies as **'officially an outstanding organisation to work for.'** Further details [Best Companies | Law Officers' Department Jersey Company Profile](#)



In November 2025 the Law Officers' Department was awarded Lexcel accreditation for 'excellence in practice management and client care' for the sixth year running. The independent assessor singled out 29 Areas of Good Practice in the 2025/26 assessment report, commenting that:

"Interview evidence demonstrates a very strong sense of teamwork and peer-to-peer support across the department. Colleagues consistently highlighted the value placed on one another's skills, experience and willingness to help, describing an environment where people are generous with their time and expertise. This collaborative culture is clearly a significant strength and contributes positively to both morale and service delivery."





Job Description

Department: Law Officers' Department

Appointment: His Majesty's Solicitor General

Reports to: His Majesty's Attorney General

Purpose of Job:

1. The Solicitor General is a Crown appointment and supports the Attorney General as the chief law officer of the Island of Jersey.
2. The Solicitor General is ex officio a member of the States Assembly and will be expected to attend the Assembly to give legal advice when the Attorney General does not do so.
3. The Solicitor General deputises for the Attorney General in all matters pertaining to his role and acts as Attorney General in his absence from the Island or otherwise. This involves, as determined by the Attorney General:

- acting as legal adviser to the Crown, the States Assembly, Ministers, Scrutiny Panels and other public bodies, acting to assist individual States members in the exercise of their public functions.
- Responsibility for the prosecution service in all Courts.
- Head of the Honorary Police. This includes:

- (i) Offering help and guidance to the Comite des Connetables, the Comite des Chefs and the Honorary Police Association in respect of honorary police matters; and,
- (ii) Exercising statutory functions relating to the Honorary Police and Honorary Police discipline.
- (iii) Offering guidance to Centeniers as prosecutors.

- A number of miscellaneous functions. These include –

(i) Acting as the competent authority for mutual legal assistance and extradition from overseas authorities.

(ii) Conducting investigations under the Investigation of Fraud (Jersey) Law 1991.

(iii) Issuing warrants under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Jersey) Law 2005, and the Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence (Jersey) Law 2003.

(iv) Acting as Partie Publique where appropriate in any court proceedings.

4. The Solicitor General supports the Attorney General in leading the Law Officers' Department, overseeing the work of other staff in allocated sections as well as his or her own workload.

The work of the Law Officers' Department is complex, wide-ranging and intellectually taxing. It is also frequently the subject of public scrutiny.

Principal Accountabilities:

The Solicitor General supports and aspires to the objectives of the Law Officers' Department which include the following:

1. To provide legal advice to the Government, States Assembly and the Crown.
2. To provide the independent public prosecution service for the Island.
3. To protect the interests of the Crown and the Government in civil proceedings.
4. To help safeguard children and adults at risk.
5. To enable the forfeiture and confiscation of the proceeds of crime.
6. To assist overseas law enforcement agencies.
7. To carry out the statutory and customary law duties of the Attorney General.

Knowledge and Experience

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. A qualified Jersey advocate or solicitor.
 2. A comprehensive knowledge of the laws of Jersey.
 3. A comprehensive knowledge of the practice and procedure of the courts of Jersey.
 4. A high level of professional achievement in a broad range of legal activity.
- It would be an advantage if the applicant were to have a good knowledge of public law.

Qualities and Abilities

In addition to the knowledge and experience listed above, candidates should be able to demonstrate the following qualities and abilities:

1. Outstanding Intellectual Capacity

- Sound intellectual and analytical ability.
- High level of legal expertise.
- Appropriate knowledge of the law and its underlying principles and the ability, where appropriate, to master unfamiliar areas of law.

2. Personal Qualities

- Integrity and independence of mind.
- Sound judgement.
- Decisiveness.
- Objectivity.
- Commitment, conscientiousness and diligence.
- Ability and willingness to learn and develop professionally.
- Ability to manage appropriately a public profile.

3. Ability to Understand and Deal Fairly

- Ability to treat everyone with respect and sensitivity whatever their background.
- Willingness to listen with patience and courtesy.

4. Authority and Communication Skills

- Ability to express and explain clearly and succinctly to all concerned matters of law and procedure.
- Ability to inspire respect and confidence.
- Ability to maintain authority when challenged.
- Strong administration and management skills.

5. Efficiency

- The ability to work under considerable pressure and to prioritise conflicting demands on time.
- Ability to organise time effectively and produce clear reasoned advice expeditiously.
- Ability to work constructively with others (including leadership and management skills).
- Strong administration and management skills.

Fulfilment of duties

If recommended for appointment, the candidate must be able to fulfil the duties of Solicitor General. Applicants may be required to undergo a medical assessment before taking up appointment. No one will be rejected on the basis of the medical assessment until reasonable adjustments, where appropriate, have been considered with the applicant.

Applicants should bear in mind that the States may, at any time, review the office of Solicitor General, and the outcome of any such review might bear upon the office and functions of the Solicitor General.

Applications from those with disabilities are welcomed. A disability is a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Any reasonable adjustments to enable such an applicant to take up appointment will be discussed in person with the Panel.

Organisation

The Law Officers' Department provides advice to the Government, States Assembly, Crown, assists overseas law enforcement agencies and is the prosecution service for the Island.

The **Attorney General** has overall responsibility for the Department and is titular head of the Honorary Police.

The **Solicitor General** deputises for the Attorney General and gives advice on his own account.

The Law Officers' Department consists of the Civil Division and the Criminal Division supported by a small Administration team.

A Director manages each division. The **Civil Division** is divided into four teams; Advice; Commercial and Contentious; Safeguarding; and Property.

The **Advice team** provides advice regarding the following: constitutional matters, external relations, international treaties (including bilateral treaties negotiations under entrustment), trade, fisheries, customs and immigration, EU Law, UK and international sanctions, civil aviation, elections, licensing, parish matters, fidéicommis and incorporated association applications, statutory interpretation, extension of UK legislation to Jersey, drafting of Orders in Council and Rules of Court, legislation projects (across the full range of Government of Jersey portfolios, for example, children and family legislation, heritage, financial services, telecoms, cyber and data protection), human rights, penalty reviews of draft legislation, drafting of Royal Assent memoranda, customary and general public law advice.

The **Commercial and Contentious team** provides advice in respect of contracts and contractual disputes, employment and discrimination claims, data protection and freedom of information, planning, personal injury claims, tax, general civil litigation and applications for judicial review.

The **Safeguarding team** provides advice to the Children's Service about the care and protection of children in the Island, and deals with applications for public law orders in relation to children. The Team also provides advice to Health and Care Jersey in relation to vulnerable adults and those who lack mental capacity. The Team also assists the Attorney General in carrying out his functions as designated Central Authority under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

The **Property team** advise on all property related matters and deal with conveyancing work on behalf of the Public of the Island and the Crown.

The **Criminal Division** is divided into three teams: the Criminal Courts Team (CCT); the Economic Crime and Confiscation Unit (ECCU); and the Mutual Legal Assistance Team (MLA).

The **Criminal Courts team** prosecutes cases before the Magistrate's and Youth Courts, the Royal Court and Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), and gives advice to the States of Jersey Police, the Honorary Police, Customs, and numerous Government regulatory Departments.

The **Economic Crime and Confiscation Unit** was established in October 2017 in order to ensure that the Island remains at the forefront of the fight against financial crime and money laundering.

The **Mutual Legal Assistance team** handles international requests for assistance.

The **Operations team** supports the Law Officers and legal staff, in order that the functions of the Law Officers can be carried out efficiently and effectively and in line with the Public Finances Manual and Codes of Practice.



Main Terms and Conditions of Appointment

1. Appointment and Tenure: The appointment will be made by His Majesty The King. The Letters Patent expire at the age of 70.

2. Duties: The duties of the Solicitor General are set out in the Job Description on pages 5 - 8.

3. Remuneration and Pension:

- The salary and pension arrangements of the Solicitor General will be available on request.
- The appointment is pensionable.
- The Solicitor General will be eligible for membership of the Career Average Scheme of the Public Employees Pension Fund.

4. Termination of Appointment:

- The Solicitor General holds office during good behaviour.
- The Solicitor General may resign at any time by petition to His Majesty. It is expected that the Solicitor General will give not less than twelve months notice of termination to the Lieutenant Governor and the Bailiff, save in the event of ill-health dictating a shorter notice period.

5. Outside Activities and Interests:

- The Solicitor General may not be in practice as an Advocate or Ecrivain or be concerned in any law practice elsewhere. The Solicitor General may not engage in any part time activity in Jersey or elsewhere, which entitles them to receive any emolument for their services, nor will the Solicitor General hold any unpaid office in any trading entity, but nothing shall preclude the Solicitor General acting as an officer of an investment company or trust involved in the holding of investments on their behalf or on behalf of immediate family members.
- The Solicitor General must be politically independent and all conflicts of interest must be declared.

6. General Principles:

- While holding office the Solicitor General must ensure that their conduct is consistent with the authority and standing of the appointment. The Solicitor General must not, in any capacity, engage in any activity which might undermine, or be reasonably thought to undermine, their independence or impartiality.
- The Solicitor General may not undertake any task or engage in any activity, which in any way limits their ability to discharge the functions to the full.
- The Solicitor General should so conduct their private affairs so as to minimise the possibility of conflict or embarrassment.
- The Solicitor General should not accept gifts, rewards and other benefits if to do so might sensibly be interpreted as undermining their independence or impartiality.

Diversity and Inclusion

We actively look to recruit people from different backgrounds, with diverse perspectives. This creates a richer, more varied environment, where you're exposed to new ideas, new ways of thinking and new opportunities, so you can develop an exciting and rewarding career.

Jersey operates the Guaranteed Interview Scheme whereby applications who have a disability and meet the essential and statutory criteria for the role are guaranteed an interview.

How to Apply

In order to be considered for the office of Solicitor General please submit your Curriculum Vitae and Supporting Statement to the office of the Lieutenant-Governor for the attention of Justin Oldridge (Chief of Staff for the office of the Lieutenant Governor) either by email to j.oldridge@gov.je or via post to Government House, St Saviour, JE2 7GH by 17:00 on 13 March 2026.

Your Curriculum Vitae should include the following information:

- Secondary, Further and Higher Education
- Academic qualifications since leaving Secondary Education
- Full employment history
- Experience as a lawyer
- Experience and contribution to the life of the Community in Jersey or elsewhere, if any.

Your Supporting Statement should detail:

- Your motivation and reasons for applying;
- Where appropriate, details of what, if you are a litigator, you consider to be the most important pieces of litigation that you have conducted in the Royal Court in the last five years or (if you are a non-contentious lawyer) the principal pieces of legal work you have carried out during the same period; and,
- Other information which ought properly to be disclosed as a material consideration to be taken into account in the selection procedure, including any professional disciplinary action or criminal convictions and any other matter which might reasonably be thought relevant to your suitability for appointment; and
- Name and address of one current professional reference which will be taken up on receipt of your application.

Please specify in your application if you hold:

Entitled status under the Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012

British citizenship

Declaration:

By submitting an application you declare:

You agree to appropriate enhanced security checks, for the purposes of this appointment.

The details you have provided as part of this application are correct and complete to the best of your belief. You understand that enquiries will be made to verify these details. You also understand that any false statements or the withholding of any relevant information may provide grounds for rejection of your application, or termination of your contract.

You accept that a contract will be subject to satisfactory medical clearance, references, security clearance, together with receipt of acceptable evidence of identity and of professional qualifications required for this position. A copy of the privacy notice is available [here](#).

You understand that the Bailiff's Chambers and States of Jersey will collect and process personal information about you, and may retain those records, subject to the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018.

Application Timetable:

Launch date: 16 February 2026

Application deadline: 13 March 2026

Interviews & Consultations: 27 / 30 March 2026