

Legal 80

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MICRONESIA LAWYER PROGRAM:

Job Description:

The Volunteer lawyers' primary assignments will be as legislative counsels with District Legislatures and Municipal Legislatures and Councils. The Volunteer will assist with the drafting of legislation, advising officers and committees on the legal technicalities of legislation and rules of procedure and interpretation of procedural questions as they arise. Lawyers will assist in the training of members and employees of the legislatures in the proper and correct terminology and language used to make their ordinances, resolutions, laws, and other legal materials have the force and effect desired by that body. In between sessions of these law making bodies, the lawyers will assist legislative secretaries in incorporating and codifying enacted legislation. They will help train legislative clerks and other employees in procedures and techniques necessary for sound administrative operation of the legislature. They will provide a comprehensive research and reference service on legislative matters. They will advise on the need to revise present laws and recommend possible new areas of legislation. They will render legal opinions when requested by officers of the legislative bodies after due consideration and legal research on the question or problem.

With the rapid development of Micronesia and expanded role of Micronesian government participation, the Legislatures' role requires more and more time and skill and greater degrees of maturity and sophistication. The

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PCVs' time will be occupied in preparation and training legislative members and employees in the precise techniques and procedures necessary to function in this development.

Secondary assignments - Legal assistance is at a premium in Micronesia. There is only one lawyer engaged in private practice in the whole of Micronesia. Although the Peace Corps lawyers will not practice law in the courts of Micronesia, they will be called upon by many Micronesian private groups to draw legal documents dealing with incorporation of non-private organizations, community projects, charitable bodies and related needs for legal assistance. In many instances the lawyers will work with and train court clerks, municipal clerks and officials, trial assistants, and others by classroom instruction or by on-the-job assistance. The Volunteer will be a source of advice to and for prosecutors, public defenders, and others in the legal fields of his district.