

# **UNDT/2014/069, Hubble**

## **UNAT Held or UNDT Pronouncements**

In the course of the selection process, the post of Chief, IS, (D-1)—whose incumbent had been acting as Hiring Manager for the contested post—was being temporarily loaned to the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), for a period of more than ten months. Despite this vacuum, the Administration assigned a Chief of Section (P-5) as OIC, IS, for the whole period of the loan and derived from this status the authority to act as Hiring Manager in the selection process, including the submission of the recommendation memorandum for final selection to the Director-General, UNOG. The Tribunal found that the Chief of Section, acting as OIC, IS, lacked the legal authority to act as Hiring Manager in the selection process. In view of this procedural irregularity and the fact that the Applicant, as a rostered candidate, had a significant chance to be selected for the post, the Tribunal decided to rescind the contested selection decision. Moreover, it noted that the amount of alternative compensation under art. 10.5(a) of its Statute was to be determined on the basis of the estimated difference between the P-4 and P-5 grades, for a period of two years, divided by six, since the Applicant had a chance out of six to be promoted.

## **Decision Contested or Judgment/Order Appealed**

The Applicant, a P-4 English Interpreter, Interpretation Service (IS), Department for Conference Management (DCM), UNOG, appealed the decision to select another candidate to the P-5 post of Senior Interpreter in the same service.

## **Legal Principle(s)**

**Hiring Manager:** The Hiring Manager plays a crucial role in a selection process and a person who acts as Hiring Manager must have the legal authority to do so. **OIC:** The appointment of an OIC requires that the OICs duties be clearly defined against an

existing post, this means that where there is no post, the position of an OIC lacks its essential fundament. Therefore, in the absence of a given post against which a person can be assigned as OIC, the Administration cannot appoint an OIC and derive from this status the same authority vested in the position of the non-existent post of Chief (D-1), including the authority to act as a Hiring Manager. Alternative compensation: The compensation to be paid as an alternative to effective rescission of a non-promotion decision corresponds to the salary difference between an Applicant's current grade and the grade he/she would have had upon promotion, divided by the chances he/she had in the selection process. In the absence of clear indicators as to when the person will be able to assert her/his right to seek promotion in the future, the period to be taken into account should not exceed two years.

## Outcome

Judgment entered for Applicant in full or in part

## Outcome Extra Text

Only spec. perform. (incl. rescission with \$ alt.)

## Full judgment

[Full judgment](#)

## Applicants/Appellants

Hubble

## Entity

UNOG

## Case Number(s)

UNDT/GVA/2014/5

## Tribunal

UNDT

## Registry

Geneva

## Date of Judgement

19 Jun 2014

## Duty Judge

Judge Laker

## Language of Judgment

English

## Issuance Type

Judgment

## Categories/Subcategories

Compensation

Staff selection (non-selection/non-promotion)

Full and fair consideration

## Applicable Law

Administrative Instructions

- ST/AI/2010/3/Amend.1
- ST/AI/2010/4/Rev.1

UNDT RoP

- Article 11

UNDT Statute

- Article 10.5(a)

## Related Judgments and Orders

2010-UNAT-044

2011-UNAT-109

2011-UNAT-122

2011-UNAT-174

2012-UNAT-220

2013-UNAT-286

2013-UNAT-347