

NALP'S JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION

STATE COURT WORK GROUP

Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships



This document was compiled from information provided by Career Services Office representatives from law schools all over the country. Their contributions are acknowledged and appreciated. This document should be read in conjunction with [The Guide to State Court Judicial Clerkships](#), published by The Vermont Law School. A PDF of the most current version of this document is available in the Judicial Clerkships Section of the NALP website.

November 2020

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¹ Thank you to all NALP Judicial Clerkship Section members who have contributed to this document. If you are able to contribute an entry for a missing state, please submit that material to Jen Pollard at jpollard@law.umaryland.edu or Tamara Stephen at tamara.stephen@brooklaw.edu.

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ALABAMA

ALABAMA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Alabama has the authority to review decisions rendered by the other courts of the state and certain legal matters over which no other court has jurisdiction. The Supreme Court consists of 9 Justices, a Chief Justice and 8 associate justices, who employ permanent Staff Attorneys. For Staff Attorney openings, check the Court's website at <http://judicial.alabama.gov/supreme.cfm>.

ALABAMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS and ALABAMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

These are the intermediate courts of appeal for the state. The civil court may hire clerks each year but the criminal court employs only permanent Staff Attorneys. Check the court website at: <http://judicial.alabama.gov/civil.cfm>

CIRCUIT COURTS

The trial courts of general jurisdiction are called Circuit Courts. There are 41 Circuit Courts in the state and they are the trial courts of general jurisdiction and also act as the courts of appeal for the probate, municipal and district courts of the state. Some larger metropolitan Circuit Courts may hire law clerks. Interested students should apply directly to judges in these courts, typically in early spring of 2L year.

ARIZONA

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

The Arizona Supreme Court consists of seven Justices, all of whom post their judicial clerkship application requirements online at <http://www.azcourts.gov/mediaroom/Press-Releases-News/Judicial-Law-Clerk-Applications>. Each Justice typically hires 2 clerks each year, for 1-year terms.

Application materials must include a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, undergraduate transcript, writing sample, and two or three letters of recommendation. Application packets should be emailed to: LCapps@courts.az.gov. Applicants must identify in the subject line and body of message the Justice(s) to whom they are applying. Note: The server will reject email attachments that exceed 8MB.

ARIZONA COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is comprised of two Divisions. Division One, in Phoenix, has 16 judges and Division Two, in Tucson, has six judges.

Division One judges typically hire term clerks annually. Interested applicants should obtain information from the court's website, see <http://www.azcourts.gov/coa1/Career-Volunteer/Law-Clerk-Openings>, and may also need to contact individual chambers in spring of the 2L year in order to ascertain specifics.

Division Two judges typically hire term clerks annually. Interested applicants should obtain information from the court's website, see <https://www.appeals2.az.gov/apl2.cfm> (click "Judicial Law Clerk applications") to determine which judges will be hiring, what their timelines will be, and what application materials are required.

ARIZONA TRIAL COURT

Arizona's trial court is the Superior Court. It is a single entity with locations in each county. The counties with the largest number of courts are Maricopa County (Phoenix) and Pima County (Tucson). Maricopa County Superior Court does not have traditional law clerks; instead, the court hires a few Law Researchers and Law-trained Bailiffs. See <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/jobs/index.asp>. There are no fixed application timelines; openings are posted as vacancies occur. Pima County Superior Court maintains a pool of law clerk applicants from which judges may choose when clerkships become available. Most law clerks also perform bailiff duties. See <https://agency.governmentjobs.com/scpima/default.cfm>. Other trial court websites are listed here: <http://www.azcourts.gov/AZ-Courts/Superior-Court>.

CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

The Justices of the California Supreme Court generally do not hire term law clerks, except in a few rare cases. Justice Cuellar, Justice Kruger, and Justice Liu often hire term law clerks, however, these positions are extremely competitive. The Justices tend to hire clerks with previous clerkship experience - and sometimes hire clerks without a previous clerkship but only those who will bring at least one year of post-graduate practice experience. The Justices tend to hire 2-3 years in advance of the term.

How to apply:

Email a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, writing sample and three letters of recommendation in ONE PDF packet to:

Justice Cuellar: clerkships.cuellar@jud.ca.gov

Justice Kruger: Clerkships.Kruger@jud.ca.gov

Justice Liu: clerkships.liu@jud.ca.gov

For other Justices

Check the California Courts website for openings:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/careers.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en>

CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEALS

Justices of the California Court of Appeals typically do not hire term law clerks. It is more common for them to have permanent staff attorneys, who have a minimum of five years of experience. Other staff attorney positions with the Habeas Corpus Counsel or appellate attorney positions may become available, but again, these positions are typically for experienced attorneys.

CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURTS

Some superior courts hire recent grads, namely the Los Angeles and San Francisco Superior Courts. The other California Superior Courts (including San Diego) generally hire experienced attorneys for staff attorney positions.

Los Angeles Superior Court

The Los Angeles Superior Court hires term law clerks. While hiring tends to occur in late spring/early summer of 3L year, recruitment can be open and continuous. Refer to the court's website for openings: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lasc>.

San Francisco Superior Court

The San Francisco Superior Court hires Legal Research Assistants. These are one-year term positions typically available to graduating law students. The court will post an announcement in January or February of the year for which the position will start, which is in August or September.

Other California Superior Courts

Other counties seem to hire staff attorneys who have post-graduate practice experience. Refer to the county court website for further hiring information or for job postings.

COLORADO

COLORADO SUPREME COURT

Application requirements for the seven justices of the Colorado Supreme Court are available at: http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Applicants.cfm. It is best to follow the specific application requirements for each justice as there are minor variations between them.

While the website identifies a specific time frame during which some justices accept and review applications, it does not provide this information for all of them. Some justices conduct interviews as early as the summer between the 2L and 3L year. Most justices complete their hiring in September or October. Therefore, to maximize consideration by all justices, it is best to apply for these clerkships in the summer after the second year of law school, as soon as possible after receiving second year grades and class rank.

Like most other judges, the Colorado Supreme Court justices tend to seek clerks with strong writing skills. In addition to featuring traditional legal writing experience on the resume (e.g. Law Review; Moot Court; Legal Writing Competitions, etc.) applicants should consider listing any significant non-legal writing experience on their resumes.

COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS

The Colorado Court of Appeals consists of 22 judges, most of whom post their judicial clerkship application requirements at http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Court_of_Appeals/Applicants.cfm. It is best to follow the specific application requirements for each judge as there are significant variations between them. Where the website does not provide specific information on a judge's application requirements, applicants should send a standard application packet consisting of a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample, and three letters of recommendation.

The website identifies a specific application time frame for some judges, but it does not provide this information for all them. While most judges complete their hiring during the fall, in recent years, some judges have hired as early as July while others have waited until spring. Given the wide variability among the judges in the timing of their law clerk hiring, it is recommended that students apply to each judge as early as possible in the time frames set forth in their individual hiring procedures on the website. For judges who do not publish their hiring procedures on the website, it is recommended that students apply in the late summer to early fall of their third year.

Colorado Court of Appeals judges also vary in the way they staff their chambers with law clerks. Judges may choose to have one or two law clerks. Those who opt to have one law clerk typically choose to have an administrative assistant in lieu of a second clerk. Judges who have two law clerks can opt to have permanent clerks or term law clerks. Some judges have one permanent clerk and one term clerk, while others opt for two term clerks. As of summer 2009, all judges have at least one term clerk. Most term clerk positions are for one year; however, at least two judges require a two-year term.

Finally, some Colorado Court of Appeals judges require candidates to perform a substantive research and writing exercise as part of the interview process. Examples have included post-interview legal writing assignments and asking interviewees to come to the interview prepared to discuss a particular legal issue.

COLORADO TRIAL COURTS

The Colorado trial courts are organized into twenty judicial districts, each covering one or more counties. A list of the trial courts is available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Index.cfm>.

Colorado district court judges post their clerkship positions at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Index.cfm>.

In general, Colorado District Courts do not have a uniform clerkship cycle. Most judges post positions when they receive notice that their current clerk is leaving and will typically seek to fill the positions as soon as possible after a vacancy occurs. Accordingly, students interested in these positions should check the website regularly and apply as soon as possible after a position is posted. While an opening could occur at any time, most openings tend to appear between April and September. As a result, most clerks obtain these positions over the summer after graduating from law school.

Unlike the other Colorado District Courts, the Twentieth Judicial District, which covers Boulder County, has a uniform clerkship cycle. Clerks on this court typically start work in September and complete their clerkships in a year. Positions are typically posted sometime between November and January in the student's third year of law school and hiring for the positions usually occurs in the spring.

The Colorado State Judicial Branch requires applicants for trial court clerkships to submit a Colorado Judicial Department Employment Application, which is available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Index.cfm>. Individual job postings may not specify what other materials are required, but it is generally a good idea to submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, transcript, and a list of 3 to 5 references.

Depending on the court, judges may be assigned to civil, criminal, domestic, juvenile, or probate dockets. Larger courts, such as the Denver District Court (2nd Judicial District) will often assign judges to a docket handling specific types of cases (e.g. criminal or civil). The judges on courts with specialized dockets often rotate from one type of docket to another on a periodic basis. Other courts assign judges to "mixed" dockets, meaning that each judge will preside over different types of cases. Frequently, law clerk job postings do not identify the judge or the docket associated with the law clerk position. Therefore, applicants may want to call the court's district administrator or clerk's office before applying. This information is available on the State Judicial Branch Website.

Very few, if any, Colorado state court judges require applicants to take the Colorado Bar Examination.

CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT

Most of the judges on this court now have one permanent clerk and one term clerk.

The court opens its application process in May and typically has a stated application deadline in mid-June. The court is now requires application materials to be submitted via a centralized

email collection process. Applicants are encouraged to submit all their materials to the court in a single email. Letters of recommendation can be submitted directly to the court by the recommender.

Applicants should plan to be available on very short notice as the court typically conducts its interviews immediately after the application closing date. In recent years, the court has concluded its hiring process by early July.

CONNECTICUT APPELLATE COURT

The court hires clerks for its current Judges as well as for the pool of Judge Trial Referees (retired Judges and Justices who are sitting on a reduced schedule). Typically each of the current Judges will hire one term clerk. Clerks who are hired by the Judge Trial Referees (JTRs) will often work with two or three JTRs.

The court opens its application cycle in July and has an early August application deadline. The court now accepts application materials by email. There is no particular advantage to getting materials submitted early in the process as the court does not extend interview invitations until September.

Interview dates are set and announced before the court begins accepting applications. Typically interviews are scheduled in late September or early October. Applicants will generally only receive interview invitations one or two weeks prior to the scheduled interview dates. Thus, applicants should plan to be available on the set interview days.

The court will notify selected candidates of their interview schedules by email. As all of the interviews are centrally scheduled by the court, an applicant will receive a full schedule if he/she has secured more than one interview. The court attempts to schedule multiple interviews for candidates all on one day to reduce the need for candidates to be at the court for multiple days.

Once interviews are completed, successful candidates will often hear back quickly from judges who are extending them offers. The court generally completes its hiring process by late October.

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH – OFFICE OF LEGAL RESEARCH (TRIAL COURT)

The Connecticut Judicial Branch participates in a number of fall job fairs and a variety of on-campus recruiting programs. If their representatives come to your school's on-campus recruiting program, students are strongly encouraged (almost required) to submit their materials for consideration through that process. Students who do not participate in that process may be disadvantaged in the process. If the Judicial Branch does not come to your campus, and your students cannot interview with their representatives at a job fair in the fall, they can submit their materials directly to the Judicial Branch.

The initial on-campus/job fair interview is a largely informational interview. Interviewers will describe the Judicial Branch's clerkship program as well as detail the next steps in the application process. Interviewers want to leave the initial interview knowing that applicants are interested in dedicating their clerkship to legal research and writing and that they understand they will not be assigned to a judge.

Following the initial interview, applicants will be required to submit a complete application packet, typically by the end of October.

Second round (on-site) interviews are usually scheduled during January and February. Applicants will be given a packet of materials to review in advance of the interview and asked to complete a one hour writing exercise based on those materials during the interview. Applicants will also meet with Judicial Branch attorneys for a formal interview. The whole process usually lasts about 2 hours.

The Judicial Branch will make its hiring decisions in late March or early April. Applicants are clearly told at the conclusion of their on-site interview not to contact the Judicial Branch about decisions. No information will be available until hiring decisions are made and those decisions cannot be made outside of the pre-established process (regardless of what other offers an applicant may have pending).

When an offer is made, it is a general offer. Selected candidates are not promised a court location or a precise start date. Candidates are asked to indicate their preferences as to location and start date. Those preferences are accommodated where possible, with candidates typically getting one of their top two choices.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE CHANCERY COURT

Practitioners of corporate law consider the Delaware Chancery Court to be the premier chancery court in the United States. The five judges (a Chancellor and four Vice Chancellors) each hire two clerks for one year terms. Applicants should have top academic credentials, a demonstrated interest in corporate law and a number of corporate focused courses on their transcripts. In the past the court has hired in accordance with federal hiring plan dates so you can assume they will monitor hiring activity in the federal courts. In 2018, they conducted interviews in March for the 2019 court term. Be prepared to answer substantive questions on corporate law and/or to take a written exam that tests issue spotting and writing style. The judges cooperate with each other in the hiring process. You may arrive for an interview with one judge and actually interview with more than one. Although you may get multiple interviews you will only get one offer.

DELAWARE SUPREME COURT

The timing of hiring varies by justice but typically in the late summer/early fall one year ahead. None of the justices favors Delaware residents or applicants planning on practicing in Delaware. In the past, they have hired students right out of school. Justice Berger looks for clerks who are self-sufficient and able to work with little oversight. The bulk of the docket is criminal. Other common types of cases include insurance, contract and occasional corporate ones. Justice Jacobs is retiring.

DELAWARE SUPERIOR COURT

The Delaware Superior Court is the state trial level court for Delaware, handling both civil and criminal matters. As noted on the [court's website](#), the Delaware Superior Court is the top ranked state trial court in the nation in the State Liability Systems Ranking Study. There are 21 judges located in Delaware's three counties. The court also acts as an appellate court for appeals from various state agencies (i.e. workers compensation, unemployment compensation, zoning etc.) and from the Court of Common Pleas, a court of limited jurisdiction.

The Superior Court's judicial clerkship term runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. The court has a centralized clerkship application process:

Eligible applicants interested in a clerkship in New Castle County should submit a resume, writing sample, transcript, and two letters of recommendation to:

**The Honorable Paul R. Wallace
Superior Court Judges' Chambers
New Castle County Courthouse
500 North King Street, Suite 10400
Wilmington, DE 19801-3733**

Those interested in a clerkship in Kent County should send a resume, writing sample and transcript to:

**The Honorable William L. Witham Jr.
Superior Court Judges' Chambers
Kent County Courthouse
38 The Green
Dover, DE 19901**

Eligible students interested in a clerkship in Sussex County should submit a resume, writing sample and transcript to:

The Honorable T. Henley Graves
Superior Court Judges' Chambers
Sussex County Courthouse
1 The Circle, Suite 2
Georgetown, DE 19947

Here is some specific information from some of the judges (this information has not been updated since 2013 so it could be outdated):

Judge Witham hires from October 1 through November 30 in the 3L year. He prefers applicants who are from and plan to practice in Delaware and requires that applicants have taken torts, civil and criminal procedure and constitutional law. His docket is 70% criminal cases and 30% civil.

Judge William Carpenter interviews from September to November of the 3L year and is finished by Thanksgiving. He does not require any ties to Delaware. Having good grades in evidence, criminal procedure and civil procedure are pluses. He handles both criminal and civil cases and is also assigned to the court's complex commercial litigation section. He prefers that applicants send applications directly to him and not rely on the centralized application system.

Judge Richard R. Cooch usually hires in the fall of the 3L year and has no other specific requirements.

Judge Eric Davis hires from August through early October in the 3L year. He does not have a preference regarding Delaware ties or intent to practice in Delaware. Most research done by his clerk is of a civil nature although 50% of the judge's docket is criminal.

Judge Henley Graves hires in the fall of the 3L year. He looks for candidates who intend to practice in Delaware. Intending to practice in Sussex County is a plus. He looks for evidence of a strong work ethic.

Judge Andrea Rocanelli is new to the bench and has hired only one clerk who interned for her the previous summer. She intends to hire in the late summer/early fall of the 3L year. Intent to practice or at least open to the idea of practicing in DE a plus but not a requirement.

Judge Paul Wallace hires the summer before the 3L year. He requests a resume, two writing samples and references rather than letters. He strongly prefers applicants who intend to practice in Delaware. He likes applicants that have had some advanced writing experience such as appellate advocacy or a journal experience. He also likes to see some public service experience.

DELAWARE FAMILY COURT

The Delaware Family Court handles all types of cases involving children.

New Castle County Judges – have a centralized hiring system. There are 10 judges. Eight of the judges each have a clerk but partner with another judge and his/her clerk so two judges share two clerks. The last two judges currently share one clerk but hope to get approval to hire a second clerk soon. The judges typically hire students right out of school. They begin accepting applications in early summer before the 3L year, start interviewing in mid-September and are usually finished hiring by late October/early November. The clerkship term is from September 1 through August 31. Most of the judges do not require and DE ties or intent to practice in

Delaware although a couple do favor those who do have ties. Some course work, clinic or volunteer experience involving family law is a plus but not a requirement. Two of the judges participate in the GPALS job fair in Philadelphia each year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

This is the highest court in the District of Columbia, there is no intermediate appellate court. The court currently consists of nine active judges (including one Chief Judge) and 12 senior judges. There are two types of clerks, Judicial Clerks and Court Clerks (who serve all the judges). For the Judicial Clerks, each of the judges hires two law clerks, except for the senior judges who share clerks.

Most of the judges hire 3Ls directly from law school, but in recent years several judges have hired law clerks with one or two years of experience. The clerkships are typically for a one-year term. While some judges are posting positions in early spring of the 2L year, most appellate judges tend to hire in July and August. Students should follow up directly with the court to see if there are any openings after the fall hiring season.

For Court Clerks, applicants need only send one application to Staff Counsel Rosanna M. Mason. E-mail: rmason@dcca.state.dc.us, (202) 879-2718, Fax: (202) 626-8840 at the courthouse, and the deadline is typically in early December of students' third year.

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Superior Court handles all local trial matters, including civil, criminal, family court, probate, tax, landlord-tenant, small claims, and traffic. The court consists of a chief judge and 61 associate judges. The court is assisted by the service of 24 magistrate judges as well as retired judges who have been recommended and approved as senior judges. Each associate judge hires one law clerk, and the magistrate judges typically share clerks. Students should apply individually to each associate judge and magistrate judge. The Senior Judges on each floor share clerks, the judges are on the 3rd and 5th floor and students can send applications to "Senior Judges, x floor" For more Information, they can contact April Whitaker at 202 879 4816 (3rd Floor) and Anna Scanlon at 202 879 1172 (5th Floor).

The judges are organized into divisions (Family, Civil, Criminal, Probate & Tax, and Domestic Violence) and then assignments within those divisions. The assignments are updated yearly in January, but judges typically stay at least two to three years in any particular division before rotating to another one.

The associate judges typically hire graduating 3Ls for one year terms. Some judges have hired more experienced attorneys who serve for longer than one year, and judges are usually flexible

if clerks would like to stay for longer than a year. Some judges hire in September/October of students' third year of law school, some wait until November/December, and some make decisions in January/February. By March, most of the judges have hired, but a few may still be accepting applications. Students can submit applications to all judges as early as September, but may need to follow up with judges in January if they still have not heard.

Most judges request a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, writing sample, and at least two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation are often optional, and applicants can submit a list of references instead. Cover letters should highlight the applicants' relevant experience and background.

FLORIDA

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

Seven justices make up the Florida Supreme Court, which is located in Tallahassee. The Chief Justice oversees the entire State Courts System. Opportunities to clerk exist with the individual justices, as well as with the Central Staff Office and Clerk's Office. Most justices have at least one term clerk. Term clerks are typically hired for a two year term. Vacancies are usually posted on the Florida Supreme Court's employment page available at <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/employment/index.shtml>.

While the justices' application timelines vary, in order to maximize consideration it is best to apply during the summer after the second year of law school, as soon as possible after receiving second year grades and class rank. Most justices request a cover letter, resume, self-edited writing sample, law school and undergraduate transcripts and letters of recommendation (or list of references). The primary selection criteria tend to be class rank, law review membership, and writing and research experience. Several of the justices require that their clerks sit for the Florida bar exam.

FLORIDA DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL

Florida's intermediate courts of appeal are known as the "district" courts of appeal. There are five such districts that are headquartered in Tallahassee (First DCA), Lakeland (Second DCA), Miami (Third DCA), West Palm Beach (Fourth DCA), and Daytona Beach (Fifth DCA).

A fair number of Florida DCA judges employ career clerks exclusively. However, there are many judges who also hire term clerks for one to two year terms. The Fourth and Fifth DCAs tend to do the most hiring of term clerks. Those interested in a clerkship position with a DCA judge should address their inquiries to the individual judges. Vacancies occur at various times in each chambers, but most new term clerks typically begin in August of each year. While many judges who hire term law clerks tend to hire during students' third year of law school, it is advisable to send applications during the summer after the second year of law school, once second year grades and ranks are available.

Florida DCAs also have central staff attorney offices that employ judicial law clerks. Staff attorney office clerkships are not “elbow clerkships.” Rather, DCA staff attorneys serve all of the judges on the DCA and report to the Chief DCA judge. Many of the DCAs treat these as one or two year term positions. These positions are sometimes posted on the DCAs’ websites. However, because not all DCAs post their staff attorney positions online, those interested in working as a staff attorney can send the DCA Deputy Marshall an application and ask that it be held on file until a position becomes available.

A comprehensive list of all of the circuit courts’ websites is available at: <http://www.flcourts.org/courts/dca/dca.shtml>. Because Florida DCA judges do not always post their vacancies online, as stated above, interested applicants should contact judges’ chambers directly to ascertain the hiring needs.

FLORIDA CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS

In Florida, trials are conducted in “circuit” or “county” courts, depending upon the type of case and/or amount in controversy. Individual circuit and county court judges in Florida do not employ law clerks. Rather, each of the 20 circuits in Florida has a staff attorney’s office which serves all of the judges within the circuit. These positions are referred to as Trial Court Law Clerks. The vast majority of these positions are permanent positions. Vacancies are usually posted on the circuit court’s website (though not always for very long). A comprehensive list of all of the circuit courts’ websites is available at: <http://www.flcourts.org/florida-courts/trial-courts-circuit.shtml>. An exception to this is the 15th Judicial Circuit in West Palm Beach, which treats law clerk positions as two year term positions. Vacancies at the 15th Judicial Circuit are usually posted on the court’s website in late January/early February at: <https://www.15thcircuit.com/law-clerks>.

* * *

Individuals interested in clerking for any court in Florida can also post their materials on the Florida State Courts Law Clerk Resume Repository, available at <http://lawclerk.flcourts.org>. However, because it’s unclear how many judges use the Repository to identify law clerk candidates, applicants are advised to use that method in addition to submitting applications to the individual justices’/judges’ chambers.

GEORGIA

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT AND GEORGIA APPELLATE COURT

The Georgia General Assembly recently (2018) appropriated funds for each of the nine (9) Justices of the Georgia Supreme Court to hire an additional law clerk for a one year term. All other law clerks for the Supreme Court are career staff attorneys or law clerks. In summer 2018,

the justices began accepting applications for one-year clerkships to begin in summer 2018 and summer 2019, suggesting that the justices will hire approximately one year before the term start date going forward. Qualifications are that applicants must be admitted to the State Bar of Georgia within one year of employment (meaning 3Ls and rising 3Ls may apply). Applicants should also have outstanding academic performance in law school and undergraduate studies, demonstrated proficiency in writing and legal analysis, and great integrity and character. The salary for the new term clerkships will be \$85,737.

To apply, send an e-mail to: resume@gasupreme.us. In the subject line of the e-mail, identify the year for which you are applying for a clerkship, as well as the Justice to whom you are applying (*example – Law Clerk for 2018 – Chief Justice Hines*). Attach the following materials to the e-mail as **separate PDF** files: (1) cover letter, including a statement of interest; (2) resume, including your grade point average and class rank in law school and undergraduate studies; (3) a law school transcript; (4) a writing sample (not heavily edited by others); and (5) a **list** of three references (judges, lawyers, or law professors). The chambers of individual Justices will contact select applicants to schedule interviews.

The judges at the Georgia Court of Appeals courts continue to have career staff attorneys/law clerks. The judges on each court require applicants to have some practical legal experience prior to serving as staff attorneys or law clerks. Applicants must be admitted to the Georgia state bar prior to submitting their applications.

While vacancies don't happen with regularity, it is important when positions are available for applicants to demonstrate a connection to the state and/or a concrete reason for their interest in working in Georgia. Being able to show that connection through a resume and/or a cover letter is critical. It is not enough to be able to speak to the connection during the interview process.

Applicants should give careful consideration to what they submit as a writing sample. Judges on the two appellate courts tend to prefer a more practical writing sample over more academic pieces. Applicants should be encouraged to select a writing sample that they have drafted from their prior legal experience (a brief, etc.) rather than a publication style piece (note, article, etc.).

Applicants interested in either the Georgia Supreme Court or Court of Appeals should note that the courts have a central staff attorney pool in addition to those staff attorneys hired by individual judges. These staff attorneys work for the court as a whole, but offer another viable opportunity to secure a clerkship position as judges often hire permanent clerks from this pool of experienced attorneys.

GEORGIA SUPERIOR COURT

Many of the judges on the Superior Court level share law clerks with the judicial circuit, meaning that one clerk will likely work with a few judges simultaneously during their clerkship. While the hiring is done on a very ad hoc basis, interested applicants must begin regularly checking the

court's website at www.georgiacourts.org/courts for position openings early in the spring of their second year (or third year for students in part-time/four-year programs). When posting their clerkship openings, judges will often post well in advance.

These clerkships are traditional one-year or two-year positions. It is, however, important to note that not all clerks are hired directly by an individual judge. In some circuits (generally smaller circuits), clerks are hired by the superior court to serve all judges sitting within that circuit.

Applicants should be sure to highlight their connections (if any) to the area in which they are applying for a clerkship. This is particularly important for applicants whose resumes may not readily demonstrate their connection to the state of Georgia. Judges want to know that the applicant has a well-thought out reason for applying and/or a connection to the area.

Note: Georgia also has clerkship opportunities at its State Courts in larger metropolitan areas. These courts are county level courts with jurisdiction over misdemeanor criminal cases and unlimited jurisdiction over civil matters. Applicants interested in these opportunities should apply directly to the individual judges and should be encouraged to apply broadly in order to secure a clerkship position. Contact information can be found at the same website as for Superior Courts: www.georgiacourts.org/courts. Most often, smaller courts such as probate, juvenile, or municipal courts do not hire law clerks.

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court Justices almost universally have career law clerks. Applicants interested in securing a clerkship should have a demonstrated connection to the area as well as some practical post-graduate legal experience. It seems as though some justices consistently hire from particular law schools.

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT

The Appellate Court is divided into Districts. Generally, there are no term clerk positions as most judges have career clerks. These judges seem to prefer applicants with some post-graduate legal experience over recent graduates. Increasingly, there seems to be a trend to hire law clerks that have served (or are currently serving) on the court as Staff Attorneys. Applicants should do a bit of research - beyond mere geography - before applying to any particular appellate district. The first and second appellate districts tend to be the most active districts and engage staff attorneys in more matters. This additional experience can be helpful to the candidate who ultimately wants to transition into a law clerk position on the court.

ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT

The Circuit Courts encourage applicants to check with individual judges regarding their clerkship requirements. It seems, however, that the only Circuit that hires with any regularity is Cook County. The individual judges in Cook County will consider recent law school graduates for clerkships usually for two years. Applicants should demonstrate their connection to the area in their cover letter and/or resume.

INDIANA

SUPREME COURT

The Indiana Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. A Justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the Governor following a recruitment and interviewing process with a seven-member Judicial Nominating Commission and serves as a Supreme Court Justice for a minimum of two years before being subject to a retention vote at a General Election. If approved, the Justice of the Supreme Court begins a 10-year term, and is subject to a retention vote every ten years. Retirement is required at the age of 75. The Chief Justice is selected by the Judicial Nominating Commission from among the five justices on the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has opportunities for law clerks to work directly with the five Justices of the Supreme Court. Each Justice of the Supreme Court makes his or her own decision on hiring clerks and determines what tasks to assign to his or her clerk. Openings for clerkships are listed at the clerkship section of the Indiana Courts website (<https://www.in.gov/judiciary/supreme/2362.htm>). Salaries range from \$67,500 to \$75,500 depending on experience, and law clerks receive benefits similar to all state employees.

COURT OF APPEALS

The Indiana Court of Appeals is comprised of five districts. Three judges are assigned to each district, for a total of 15 Indiana Court of Appeals judges. The Court hears cases in panels of three judges only. All panels have statewide jurisdiction, except in death penalty or life-without-parole cases, cases in which a statute is declared unconstitutional by trial court, and attorney disciplinary cases. All those cases are directly appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court. Tax cases are appealed to the Indiana Tax Court (see below). The three-judge panels rotate three times per year. Indiana Court of Appeals judges are recruited and interviewed by a seven-member Judicial Nomination Commission and appointed by the Governor. The judges serve for a minimum of two years before being subject to a retention vote at general election every 10 years.

Hiring practices vary for each judge. Each judge makes his or her own decision about how and when to hire law clerks. Some judges publish on the general "Employment Opportunities" link on the Indiana Judicial Branch website (<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2621.htm>) but not all. It is best to determine clerkship openings by contacting the judge's chambers directly. Law clerk salaries at the Indiana Court of Appeals start at \$65,119 per year and state of Indiana benefits

apply. Information about the Indiana Court of Appeals is found at the Indiana Court website (<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals/index.htm>).

TRIAL LEVEL

Indiana Trial Courts are organized by county . There are 47 city courts and 28 town courts, created by local ordinance. There are 92 counties, 91 circuit courts (2 counties combined) with general trial jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction over city and town courts. There are additional superior courts which generally have general jurisdiction and small claim and minor offense divisions as well as appellate jurisdiction over city and town courts. The hiring of law clerks is controlled individually by each county; therefore, the availability of clerkships varies widely. Information about the Indiana Trial Courts is found at the Indiana Court website (<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2794.htm>). Interested applicants should contact the specific court to inquire into the hiring process and availability of clerkships for that specific county. The website has a directory of Courts and Clerks in Indiana.

TAX COURT

Pursuant to Indiana Constitution Article 7, Section 1, the General Assembly established the Indiana Tax Court effective July 1, 1986. The Tax Court hears certain cases as the finder of fact, similar to a trial court and certain other cases as a reviewing court, similar to the Indiana Court of Appeals. The Tax Court has one judge who is appointed by the Governor, after a recruitment and interview process with a seven-member Judicial Nominating Commission. The initial term of the Judge is until the general election following the expiration of two years from the initial appointment. The Judge is subject to a retention vote every ten years in the same manner as the Indiana Court of Appeals judges and Indiana Supreme Court Justices.

The Indiana Tax Court hires law clerks to work directly with the Tax Court judge. The law clerks work individually, as a team with fellow clerks, and directly with the Judge. First year law clerks receive an annual salary of approximately \$66,000 and benefits similar to all state employees, and the clerkship is typically one year in length, but a second year can occur. Openings are listed at the Indiana Court website (<https://www.in.gov/judiciary/tax/2372.htm>).

IOWA

SUPREME COURT

Traditionally, each of the seven justices on the Iowa Supreme Court and each of the nine judges on the Iowa Court of Appeals employs a law clerk. The clerks' duties typically include conducting legal research, drafting memoranda, preparing summaries, and reviewing opinions to assist the justice or judge with the disposition of cases.

The eight judicial districts (trial courts) also employ law clerks to assist trial judges. Law clerk duties at the district level may vary from district to district, but generally include legal research and writing.

Work locations of Iowa Supreme Court law clerks are usually split between the courthouse in the justice's home county and the Judicial Branch Building in Des Moines. Law clerks for the Iowa Court of Appeals work at the Judicial Branch Building in Des Moines. Locations vary across the state for district court law clerks.

Law clerks must be law school graduates. Employment is usually for a one-year period, beginning in August. At a judge's discretion, clerks may be offered the opportunity to continue employment for another year or so. Law clerks are eligible for a full range of benefits including health and dental insurance, disability and life insurance, 11 holidays and two weeks vacation.

Application deadlines vary, but applications for positions start arriving as early as spring of the year prior to commencement of employment. Application criteria vary somewhat according to the individual preferences of the judge or justice. In general, strong writing ability, GPA, class standing, and law review experience are important.

Each justice and judges sets his or her own interviewing schedule. Applications should include a resume and cover letter. Some justices or judges may request a law school transcript, recent writing sample and references. Address and send applications to individual justices or judges in care of:

Iowa Supreme Court
Judicial Branch Building
1111 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Court of Appeals
Judicial Branch Building
Attention: Dan Marvin
1111 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Mr. Marvin will make the applications available to judges seeking to fill clerk positions.

DISTRICT COURT

Send resume and cover letter to District Court Administrators as directed in the Vermont Law School guide.

MARYLAND

The www.courts.state.md.us website is helpful for biographies of judges, links to county court websites, information about judicial nominations, and job postings other than clerkships in the court system.

COURT OF APPEALS

This is the state's high court. There are seven judges on this court. Each judge has two term clerks. Some judges opt not to have a judicial assistant and instead have a third clerk who sometimes is a term clerk and, other times, is a career clerk. The judges' chambers are located

throughout the state of Maryland. Oral arguments occur in Annapolis, Maryland, where a number (but not all!) of the appellate judges are located.

Each judge determines his or her own hiring timeline and application requirements. Typically, though, the judges begin accepting applications in late December/early January of the second year of law school. All the judges usually are finished hiring by the end of the spring semester of the second year. It is best to call each judge to determine the application requirements because there are slight variations between the judges. Contact information is available on the Maryland Judiciary website.

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

This is the intermediate appellate court that hears both criminal and civil appeals as a matter of right. It is often referred to as the “workhorse court” of the appellate courts because the volume of cases is so great here. There are fifteen judges on this court. Like the Court of Appeals judges, each judge on this court is budgeted two law clerks. Most judges choose to have two term clerks. Some judges, however, choose to have one permanent clerk and one term clerk. Still, others choose not to have a judicial assistant and have a career clerk and two term clerks. Also, like the Court of Appeals, the judges’ chambers are located throughout the state of Maryland, with oral arguments occurring in Annapolis, Maryland.

Each judge determines his or her own hiring timeline and application requirements. An increasing number of Court of Special Appeals judges are accepting applications, conducting interviews, and making offers starting in the middle of the spring semester of the second year of law school. There are a few judges, though, who may accept applications sooner, but will not conduct interviews or make offers until late summer (August) or fall (one typically hires in December) of the third-year of law school. Like the Court of Appeals, it is best to call each judge regarding application materials and exact timing because they do vary between the judges.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

Circuit Courts are where jury trials are held. Circuit Courts generally handle more serious criminal cases and major civil cases. These include juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody and child support. The Circuit Courts hear most cases appealed from the District Court, orphans’ courts and some administrative agencies. Circuit Courts also hear domestic violence cases. Cases may be decided by juries, but also may be decided by a judge only.

There is a Circuit Court and Clerk's Office in each of Maryland’s 23 counties and the city of Baltimore. Circuit Courts are grouped in 8 judicial circuits.

In most counties, the judges do their interviewing and hiring individually, so students need to call each chambers and ask for application information and deadlines. An increasing number judges look at applications as early as the summer before third year. Many begin receiving the bulk of their applications in September and make a decision between October and December.

Then, there are some who do not hire until the winter or spring. It is always helpful to apply early, as these application deadlines are rolling, and judges can make decisions at any time.

In smaller counties, usually those judges hire individually, too; however, there are a few counties where they accept applications as a group through the chief administrative judge; in past years, Wicomico and Harford counties operated in this way. While the law clerks work for individual judges, the hiring process is streamlined, and applicants send applications to the administrative judge. In Baltimore City, the Retired and Visiting Judges share a law clerk, so applicants apply to them as a whole.

In some of the larger counties, judges are assigned to specific dockets for a period of time. In the smaller counties, they may hear a variety of cases. To find out a judge's docket for your clerkship year, you can call the chambers to ask or ask a judge during the interview. The Circuit Court for Baltimore City posts the docket rotation on its website. Also, there are specialized dockets, such as the Business and Technology Docket or a Drug Treatment Court, so students could investigate those areas of interest.

CIRCUIT COURT MAGISTRATES

Magistrates also hire law clerks. In Baltimore City, individual magistrates have law clerks. The General Magistrates Office in the city hires staff attorneys from time to time when there are available positions. It is best to call each magistrate's chambers directly to find out application information.

ORPHANS' COURTS

In Baltimore City, the Orphans' Court judges hire and share a law clerk. Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County Orphans' Courts hire clerks, so applicants should call to find out specific information.

DISTRICT COURTS

Some of the district courts hire law clerks. Applicants should call those courts in the fall for application information. Hiring decisions could be made in the fall and winter. Send applications to the chief administrative judge for each district court, because that judge is the point of contact for the hiring process. Those clerks work for more than one judge at a time, and some of the larger counties hire two clerks. The state Administrative Office of the Courts in Annapolis can inform applicants what information to send to the various district courts and by when. A list of the judges is on the Maryland court website.

MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

The SJC is the Commonwealth's highest appellate court. The Court consists of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. Each SJC Justice has two law clerks. Most law clerks spend one year at the SJC, but occasionally clerks will stay for two years, and there are a few career clerks as well. Whether a law clerk stays for more than one year is up to the clerk and individual justice.

The SJC generally begins to accept clerkship applications in late August or early September. Candidates are encouraged to apply as early as possible, since the Justices make offers on a rolling basis, generally by mid-September. Exact dates and deadlines can be found on the SJC's website, <http://www.mass.gov/courts/sjc/>, and are usually posted in the spring.

Each candidate must submit a single application in paper form: (1) a current resume; (2) an official law school transcript; (3) a writing sample not to exceed ten pages and not edited by another; and (4) two letters of recommendation from law school faculty members. Cover letters should be addressed to "The Justices," although applicants may indicate a preference for clerking for a specific justice or justices. The candidate should arrange to have the law school send an official transcript directly to the Hiring Coordinator, however, the applicant may submit an unofficial transcript with the resume and writing sample. Letters of recommendation may be sent after the candidate's initial submission of materials, but the candidate might not be considered until the letters are received.

Applications are reviewed in their totality, however, academic excellence at the law school one attends is a significant factor among successful candidates. Interviews are scheduled at the request of individual justices. Candidates interview with an individual justice in-person, and sometimes current clerks meet with the candidates as well.

Most law clerks are hired straight out of law school, but the SJC also hires individuals who have been out of law school for a few years. Most SJC law clerks sit for the Massachusetts Bar Exam in July, however, sitting for the bar and passing the bar is not a requirement for the position. The Court informally cautions law clerks against sitting for the bar exam in February while serving as a law clerk.

MASSACHUSETTS APPEALS COURT

The Massachusetts Appeals Court is a court of general appellate jurisdiction, with a large caseload in both criminal and civil matters. It currently comprises a Chief Justice and 24 associate justices. From time to time, retired appellate justices also serve. The Chief Justice has two law clerks; the other justices have one. Generally, the Court hires approximately 30 law clerks for a year. Several law clerks stay on for more than one year, and a few have stayed on indefinitely as career law clerks.

The court has a centralized application process. Persons interested in law clerkships apply by mailing or emailing one set of materials, which include a cover letter, resume, copy of a law school transcript, a completed online application for employment, and two or more letters of recommendation (employer recommendations are recommended; letters should be addressed

to Managing Attorney Frank Mockler, and they may be sent separately). Candidates should include their e-mail address with their application. Application materials can be mailed or emailed (frank.mockler@appct.state.ma.us) between mid-August and late September (exact dates are posted on the website, <http://www.mass.gov/courts/appealscourt/>, sometime in the spring).

Applicants should demonstrate superior academic achievement, an ability to work professionally and independently, and an interest in legal research and writing.

Interviews are conducted on a rolling basis in September and October, and final selections are usually made in November. Screening interviews are with the Court's Managing Attorney, Frank Mockler, and applicants should be prepared to articulate why they are interested in clerking for the Appeals Court.

The majority of law clerks are hired directly out of law school, although in the last couple of years, about five out of 28 were recent graduates and lawyers. There is no requirement that law clerks take (or pass) any bar exam. However, the Appeals Court encourages law clerks to take a bar exam the summer after graduation so that they do not have to study and take the exam while balancing clerkship duties.

MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURTS

The Trial Courts are comprised of the following Court Departments: Boston Municipal, District Court, Housing Court, Juvenile Court, Land Court, Probate & Family Court, and Superior Court.

A hiring freeze that has been in effect since 2009 has limited the Trial Courts' ability to accept applications for judicial law clerk positions. However, a small number of judicial clerks have been hired in the fall of the last two years.

MICHIGAN

SUPREME COURT

The Michigan Supreme Court consists of seven justices who are nominated by political parties but elected in nonpartisan elections for eight-year terms. The Supreme Court has discretionary review of cases from the Michigan Court of Appeals and other state courts. The Supreme Court sits in Lansing, although a few Justices maintain a chambers in Detroit.

Each justice has four clerks. The justices can choose whether they want to hire term clerks, career clerks, or a mix of both. If they have term clerks, they can also choose the term length for their clerks; terms are most commonly one or two years, but some justices have three-year terms for their clerks. The employment section of the Michigan Courts website (<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/>) perpetually advertises that candidates interested in clerking for a justice may submit materials directly to the justice at any time of year. Some justices also

post their own job postings on the employment page when they are ready to receive applications. In the past, the justices primarily reviewed applications and hired in early to late summer for the next year, but several justices (in particular, Justices McCormack, Viviano, and Larsen) appear to be moving more quickly in response to the earlier timelines of many federal judges. It is advised that applicants interested in clerking for a Michigan Supreme Court justice for a specific term call chambers directly to ascertain the needs of the justices. Openings for career clerk positions will be on an as-needed basis and are typically posted on the employment section of the Michigan Courts website. Please note that the perpetual advertisement referenced above does not tell applicants to submit letters of recommendation with their applications, but letters are strongly recommended, if not required, by the justices.

COURT OF APPEALS

The Michigan Court of Appeals is comprised of four districts from which twenty-eight judges are elected in nonpartisan elections for six-year terms. The First District is based in Detroit, the Second District in Troy, the Third District in Grand Rapids, and the Fourth District is in Lansing. There are seven judges assigned to each District, although the judges within each District do not necessarily have their “home” chambers in the exact city where their District is based; hence there are Court of Appeals judges with chambers throughout the State. The Court sits in panels of three judges each.

Each judge has a law clerk and a judicial assistant. The vast, vast majority of law clerks who work directly for individual Court of Appeals judges (i.e., “elbow clerks”) are career clerks. When there are “elbow clerk” vacancies, they are typically filled by attorneys that the judges know via their work with the Research Division (see below). As such, it is relatively rare to see a posting for an elbow clerk position with an individual Michigan Court of Appeals judge. However, postings for elbow clerk positions with Court of Appeals judges are found on the employment section of the Michigan Courts website (<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/>) or on the employment section of the Michigan Court of Appeals website: (<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/resources/employment.htm>) on an as-needed basis.

In addition, the Michigan Court of Appeals has a Research Division, which has offices in Lansing, Detroit, and Grand Rapids. The Research Division typically hires in the fall of a student’s third year of law school for a two-year term that begins the fall following law school graduation. The Research Division recruits on campus at some Michigan law schools during the fall recruiting season. Interested applicants from other schools should send their materials directly to the Research Division.

TRIAL LEVEL COURTS

Michigan trial level courts include circuit, district, and probate courts, as well as some specialty courts such as the Court of Claims, the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and other administrative law tribunals. The number of law clerks varies widely among the trial courts – some busy trial level courts employ many and others lack funding to hire any. For courts with clerks, the judges

and/or local governing bodies of the specific courts determine whether the positions are term or career positions, and this can change year by year. As such, the availability of clerkships at the trial level in Michigan state courts varies widely. Applicants interested in clerking at the trial court level in Michigan should contact the specific court(s) of interest to inquire if and when they are hiring clerks for the relevant term. The Michigan Courts website has a helpful directory of Michigan trial courts: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/dirs/trialdir.htm> The trial level courts that routinely hire term clerks typically post positions in the spring for positions to begin that same fall. Postings are often found on the employment section of the Michigan Courts website (<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/>) or sent directly to the career planning offices of local law schools.

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

The Minnesota Supreme Court consists of seven Justices, who hire collectively each year using a pool system one year prior to clerkship start date.

The Chief Justice hires two clerks, and each Associate Justice hires one chambers clerk. Additionally, the Court hires two shared clerk positions where clerks split their work among three justices respectively. The term for a Supreme Court clerk is one year.

The application for the Minnesota Supreme Court opens in January for a term start date of the following summer. Applicants apply online at www.mncourts.gov. Required application materials include resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, class rank (if ranked by law school), and law school transcript. Additionally, applicants are required to complete a 20 – 25 short answer questionnaire, which is attached to their online application. Interviews are held in late spring or early summer.

MINNESOTA COURT OF APPEALS

The Minnesota Court of Appeals also hires using a pool method, and opens its application cycle in spring each year. Some judges hire outside the pool method via direct application after all pool clerks are hired. The application deadline is mid-summer. Interviews for the court occur in early September each year, with a term start date of the following summer. In the past, students have been able to apply to both the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals using one application online at www.mncourts.gov, but it now appears that the hiring process has been bifurcated.

Required application materials include resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, class rank (if ranked by law school), and law school transcript. Additionally, applicants are required to complete a 20 – 25 short answer questionnaire, which is attached to their online application.

MINNESOTA TRIAL COURTS

All Minnesota trial court judges hire via www.mncourts.gov as needed year round. Generally, judges expect a clerk to start after the hiring process and do not consider 3Ls until late spring of their 3L year. The term for a trial court clerk is at least one year, with some judges preferring longer and some clerks staying beyond the year.

Required application materials differ for each judge.

MISSISSIPPI

It is highly recommended that a candidate complete a judicial internship with one of these judges if he or she wants a post-graduate clerkship. Most judges hire summer judicial interns and often take them to events where the students can meet other justices and judges.

SUPREME COURT & COURT OF APPEALS

The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals use an application form, the Law Clerk Application, available on the Judiciary's website. The form is submitted to the courts, not the individual justices and judges. This application stays on file for one year. The judges can start with the Law Clerk Application when looking for clerks. If a candidate is interested in a particular justice or judge, the justice/judge or his or her assistant will accept materials via email. Some of the justices and judges have permanent clerks, so it is best to research whether the justice or judge has term clerks before applying.

There are no postings on the Judiciary's website for open positions.

CIRCUIT COURT & CHANCERY COURT

The Chancery Court and Circuit Court usually have term clerks. Some of the judges share law clerks. Some counties have dual roles of staff attorney/law clerk. Bigger counties will have just a law clerk, not a dual role; smaller counties usually have dual role.

The typical application packet for the trial courts is cover letter, resume, and writing sample. If the judge wants more, he or she will reach out to the candidate.

MISSOURI

SUPREME COURT

The Missouri Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and six judges. Pursuant to the state's constitution, the only judge in Missouri who is referred to as a "justice" is the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Other judges are referred to as "judge." By tradition, the chief justice typically is

elected on a rotating basis by a vote of all seven Supreme Court judges to a two-year term. Selection of Supreme Court judges is governed by the merit-based Missouri nonpartisan court plan. Pursuant to article V, section 19 of the Missouri constitution, the regular term of a Supreme Court judge is 12 years, and a judge may seek to serve for multiple terms. All judges must retire at the age of 70, although if they wish, they can apply for senior status, which permits them to continue hearing cases on a limited basis.

The Supreme Court sits in the state capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri. While many of the judges live in their hometowns throughout the state and only travel to Jefferson City for court, most of these judges will have their clerks work in the courthouse in Jefferson City. Each judge has at least two clerks.

Presently, two of the judges have permanent/career clerks, and one has one career clerk and one term clerk. The remaining four judges hire term clerks for one-year terms, with one of those judges hiring for rotating two-year terms.

Most of the judges hire between May and September after the 2L year. If interested in this court, be sure to refer to the court's website for hiring information and specific application requirements. <http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=36777>. Because there is no guarantee that all openings will be posted on the court's website, it is best to confirm hiring plans with the judges' chambers directly.

COURT OF APPEALS

The judges of the Missouri Court of Appeals review the decisions made by the trial courts and certain administrative agencies. They have jurisdiction over most appeals. Typically, the judges sit in panels of three, although occasionally all the judges of one of the districts of the Court of Appeals might sit en banc. Selection of Court of Appeals judges is governed by the merit-based Missouri nonpartisan court plan. Pursuant to article V, section 19 of the Missouri constitution, the regular term of a Supreme Court judge is 12 years, and a judge may seek to serve for multiple terms. All judges must retire at the age of 70, although if they wish, they can apply for senior status, which permits them to continue hearing cases on a limited basis.

The judges of the Court of Appeals are divided into three geographic areas. There are judges in the Eastern District, based in St. Louis; in the Western District, based in Kansas City; and in the Southern District, based in Springfield.

Hiring practices vary for each district. Most of the judges on the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District have two clerks. Over two-thirds of the judges have permanent/career clerks. More recently appointed judges have returned to hiring term clerks. Most terms are for one year (there are a couple who hire rotating two-year term clerks), however the judges have been known to extend the terms depending on the circumstances. Judges in this district hire as early as the summer after 2L year (4 semesters of grades), and as late as spring of the 3L year. Occasionally openings are posted on the court website at

<http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=1180> It is always best to confirm hiring plans with the judges' chambers directly.

Most of the judges on the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District have two clerks. Many are permanent/career clerks, but some judges hire a term clerk as well. Terms are typically for one-year, but can sometimes be extended depending on the circumstances. Judges in this district hire as early as the summer after 2L year (4 semesters of grades), and as late as spring of the 3L year. Occasionally openings are posted on the court website at <http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=1180>. It is always best to confirm hiring plans with the judges' chambers directly.

The judges on the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Southern District have one permanent/career law clerk that works with them in chambers. The court as a whole also hires two rotating clerks for one-year terms. Sometimes these rotating positions may be extended to two-year terms depending on the circumstances. The rotating clerks work with one judge for three months at a time, and then rotate to a different judge on the court. Because the rotating clerkships can open at any time, those interested in these clerkships should submit their applications to be held on file, even if a position is not currently posted on the court's website at <http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=1180>. Applications for rotating clerkships should be sent to the Clerk of the Court, Sandra L. Skinner, John Q. Hammons Building, 300 Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806. When a judge is in need of replacing a permanent/career clerk in their chambers, they have been known to hire those clerks out of the rotating clerks.

TRIAL LEVEL COURTS

The trial court judges in Missouri typically do not hire term clerks. Some of the circuits have permanent research attorneys that may open from time to time. It is best to check with the court directly about openings and requirements at <http://www.courts.mo.gov>.

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices representing the six Judicial Districts of the State. The most common arrangement is for each justice to have one permanent clerk and one term clerk. Term clerks traditionally stay for one or two years although it is not unheard of for a justice to hold onto a clerk for three or even four years depending on individual circumstances. This practice significantly limits the number of clerkships available on a yearly basis. The appellate judges vary in their hiring practices but generally hire somewhere between late summer and October of the 3L year. There is no uniform hiring practice at the appellate level and not all openings will be posted on the Nebraska Judicial Website. The best practice would be to send materials to the judges sometime mid-summer between 2L and 3L years so as not to miss an opportunity. The Fourth Judicial District

trial courts will post their position beginning in December of the 3L year and typically hire by February.

NEBRASKA COURT OF APPEALS

The Nebraska Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court. There are currently six judges, who sit in panels or divisions of three judges each. Each judge traditionally has two clerks with one permanent and the other term. The appellate judges vary in their hiring practices but generally hire somewhere between late summer and October of the 3L year. There is no uniform hiring practice at the appellate level and not all openings will be posted on the Nebraska Judicial Website. The best practice would be to send materials to the judges sometime mid-summer between 2L and 3L years so as not to miss an opportunity. The Fourth Judicial District trial courts will post their position beginning in December of the 3L year and typically hire by February.

NEBRASKA TRIAL COURTS

Nebraska is divided into 12 Judicial Districts encompassing all 93 counties. Only the Fourth Judicial District, based in Omaha, hires a pool of post-graduate judicial clerks each year. The clerks work under the direction of the Deputy Court Administrator, Lead Law Clerk, and the District Court Research Director. The clerks perform legal research for all the district judges of the Fourth Judicial District as well as for the court administrator.

CURRENT HIRING INFORMATION

Nebraska courts are currently under a hiring freeze. Due to current budget constraints judicial clerkship vacancies are not being filled. In the future such positions will be evaluated as they become available and hiring decisions made on a case-by-case basis.

NEVADA

NEVADA SUPREME COURT

The Nevada Supreme Court is composed of seven justices, each elected to a six-year term. Applicants may submit a single application which is circulated to all selected justices. The Employment Application is available here <http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/human-resources>. The application is typically due by June 1 of the preceding year.

Justices Douglas and Pickering are the only Nevada Supreme Court Justices with chambers in Las Vegas. The chambers of all other justices are located in Carson City. Applicants may state a preference for location or specify a particular justice(s) of interest on the Employment Application.

If called for an interview, applicants are required to take a three hour written examination, similar to the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). The results of the examination are analyzed by staff and provided to the justices.

NEVADA DISTRICT COURTS

The Nevada District Courts generally hire between September and April of students' 3L/4LPT year for clerkships beginning in the summer after graduation. However, some judges hire outside of this timeframe.

For the Second Judicial District (Washoe County), students are encouraged to send in applications between September-December of their 3L/4LPT year, and most interviews take place over winter break.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey is a rich source of judicial clerkships, as each justice and judge hires recent law school graduates, resulting in approximately 480 openings. Although the appellate level clerkships are generally filled early, many trial division judges do not complete their hiring until the spring. To identify the judges who are still hiring in the spring, the best course of action is to call chambers directly. You may also obtain a list of the judges who have not yet hired clerks from the HR office of the judiciary. See the website referenced below for the most up to date contact information. The HR Office updates that list upon receipt of the personnel paperwork from the newly hired clerks. Because of the lag time between the judge's hiring of a clerk, and the paperwork being received in the HR office, the best source of information is to call the judge's chambers directly.

NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey is an excellent bench, and positions there are highly sought after. Each justice has three clerks, almost all of whom are hired directly out of law school. Students typically apply around the same time as federal clerkship application cycle. Applications for the Supreme Court should include letters of recommendation, writing sample and transcripts. Justices may inquire as to candidates' connection with New Jersey, but do not have an expectation that they will sit for the New Jersey bar examination.

Although there is a method for centralized applications, as described in the Vermont Law School guide and at www.judiciary.state.nj.us, applicants for Supreme Court clerkships ought to apply directly to each justice.

NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT – APPELLATE DIVISION

Procedures are similar to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT – TRIAL DIVISION

Judges in the NJ trial courts are divided into those hearing civil, criminal, family and equity matters. Candidates should apply directly to the judges in those areas in which they have an interest. Trial courts are divided into vicinages which correspond to a county or counties. Look for the “General Assignment Order” on the New Jersey Judiciary website to identify judges in each location.

NEW JERSEY TAX COURT

New Jersey Tax Court judges sit in throughout the state. Application procedures are similar to that stated above.

NEW YORK

The following summaries are based on information gleaned from public sources, subscription resources, law schools and personal correspondences. Because each individual judge controls hiring in his/her chambers, there may be exceptions to all of these generalizations. So, when in doubt, the best way to learn of a clerkship opening with a particular judge is to call his/her chambers. Judges’ phone numbers are listed in the “BNA Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges and Clerks” and “Leadership Connect.”

When occasional clerkship openings become available, the courts may post those positions via the [court-system website](#). Once on the page, click “Current Opportunities,” then “Jobs Statewide,” then “Legal Titles.”

A note on terms of art used in this summary:

“Elbow” clerks work directly for one judge in his/her chambers. This is distinct from “pool” clerks who work with a group of other clerks for the court as a whole. Different jurisdictions call pool clerks by different names including “Central Research Staff,” “Staff Attorneys,” or “Court Attorneys.”

A “term” clerk works for a judge or group of judges for a specific term (usually one or two years), while a “permanent” clerk works for as long as they wish, usually many years.

New York State Court of Appeals

Elbow Clerks

Most judges on this court employ one or more elbow clerks. Some will hire clerks to begin directly after law school while others require their clerks to bring workplace experience to chambers. For detailed information on the judges’ current openings and hiring practices, visit the New York State Court of Appeals’ clerkship website.

Central Legal Research Staff

NOTE: As of 9/30/20, the Court of Appeals is not hiring Central Legal Research Staff due to a state-wide hiring freeze.

Each year, the Court of Appeals hires five or six attorneys into two-year clerkships with its Central Legal Research Staff. Central Staff clerks work in Albany and prepare reports on appeals and motions for leave to appeal. Candidates apply between July 1 and September 15 prior to the year that employment is sought. Historically, the starting salary has been over \$76,000 per year plus state employment benefits. Further information is available on the [New York State Court of Appeals' clerkship website](#).

New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department (New York City)

Elbow Clerks

Generally, there are no elbow clerkships available in this Department, as all the judges hire permanent clerks. However, when elbow clerk positions become available, they are posted at the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

Central Legal Staff

When available, open Staff Attorney positions are posted on the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department (Brooklyn)

Elbow Clerks

As a general rule, there are no elbow clerkship openings in this Department, as judges retain personal law clerks on a permanent basis. Again, however, there are exceptions to this general rule, and candidates should monitor the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

Central Legal Staff

When available, open Staff Attorney positions are posted on the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

Once a position is "open," obtaining it is a circuitous process. Less than 10% of those who apply are invited to participate in an orientation session and writing test. Those who pass through that screening are interviewed by the Chief Court Attorney and a panel of judges. If they "get the job," applicants are put on a list of eligible candidates who fill authorized

positions.

New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department (Albany)

Elbow Clerks

As in the other appellate divisions, most judges in this Department retain elbow law clerks on a permanent basis. Watch for occasional openings on the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

Central Legal Staff

NOTE: As of 9/30/20, the Third Department is not hiring Appellate Court Attorneys due to a state-wide hiring freeze.

The Third Department's Law Research Department hires ten Appellate Court Attorneys to one-year terms. These Attorneys will research and analyze legal questions and issues, prepare preliminary reports and confidential memoranda, check for accuracy of citations, and perform other related duties as directed by the Chief Appellate Court Attorney. Salary ranges from \$68,800 to \$80,850, depending on experience.

The Third Department typically accepts applications between the end of July and the beginning of September. While hard-copy applications are accepted, the court prefers online applications. These positions will be announced on the [Third Department's employment opportunities webpage](#).

New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department (Rochester)

Elbow Clerks

Here again, elbow clerk positions are few and far between, but when they become available, they are often posted on the [New York Court system's career webpage](#).

Central Legal Staff

NOTE: As of 9/30/20, the Fourth Department is not hiring Appellate Court Attorneys due to a state-wide hiring freeze.

The Fourth Department regularly hires eight Appellate Court Attorneys for two-year terms. These Attorneys work with all twelve Appellate Justices in the Department. Through researching and writing memoranda, they assist the court in deciding approximately 2000 appeals annually. Starting salary is \$68,800 in the first year and \$80,850 after admission to the New York Bar.

These positions are announced on the court's website during the late summer on the [Fourth Department's employment webpage](#).

New York State Supreme Courts (trial courts)

New York County

Judges in New York County typically hire only permanent elbow clerks. When occasional clerkships arise, they are often posted on the [New York Court system's career webpage](#). In most cases, justices will be seeking to hire clerks who can begin immediately or on a relatively short timeframe. Also note that these postings have short application windows, so check the site with regularity.

Other Counties

Some individual judges and counties may hire term clerks or pool clerks on a term basis. Contact judges' chambers to learn of term clerk openings and contact the Chief Clerks of each Supreme Court to inquire about pool clerk positions.

NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COURTS

In North Carolina, the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and the Business Court regularly hire judicial clerks. The Business Court is the only trial court in the state that hires clerks. You should contact the judges /justices chambers to confirm their requirements and deadlines. Hiring is done throughout the school year with each judge / justice determining their requirements with the majority receiving applications during the summer prior to 3L year. The judges on the North Carolina Business Court typically conduct interviews in the fall of students' third year. Each judge / justice typically has two clerks. For additional information, visit <http://www.nccourts.org/>

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court. This court has a Chief Justice and six associate justices, who sit as a body and decide cases appealed from lower courts, including from the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court has no jury, and it makes no determinations of fact; rather, it considers only questions of law, which means resolving a party's claim that there were errors in legal procedures or in judicial interpretation of the law in the trial court or the Court of Appeals. Justice list and biographies available at <http://appellate.nccourts.org/bios/?c=1>

COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is an intermediate appellate court that was created to relieve the Supreme Court of a portion of its heavy caseload. It has fifteen judges, who sit in panels of three to hear cases. One of the judges is the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Most of the court's sessions are held in Raleigh, but individual panels sometimes meet in other locations throughout the state. Like the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals decides only questions of law. Judge list and biographies available at <http://appellate.nccourts.org/bios/?c=2>

BUSINESS COURT

The business court is a superior court of special jurisdiction. In 1995, the North Carolina Supreme Court created the business court, in which a designated special superior court judge hears "complex business cases." Reasons that a case might be designated a complex business case include factors like a large number of parties with diverse interests or the involvement of complex legal issues. The designation of a case as a complex business case means that it is assigned to a special superior court judge designated to preside over such cases. That judge generally presides over the entire case from the pretrial matters through the trial. Specialization in business court cases allows the business court judge to develop expertise in both the substantive business law and the case management issues that arise in complex business cases. There are currently three business court judges, who sit in Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh. For more information visit www.ncbusinesscourt.net.

OHIO

OHIO SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Ohio offers one-three year clerkship opportunities which may begin the summer following graduation from law school. Students interested in a clerkship should be aware of the application deadline which is in the early spring of 2L year. The 2013 salary range is from \$60,444 to \$90,313 depending upon the experience level of the clerk. Candidates interested in clerking for the Supreme Court of Ohio should apply directly to the individual justice(s). Included in the application should be a cover letter, resume, two letters of recommendation, unofficial law school transcript, and a writing sample. More information, such as mailing address and justice bios can be found at: www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/sco/justices/.

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS

There are 12 District Courts within the Ohio Court of Appeals. Students wishing to apply for a clerkship for one of these courts should apply directly to the District Court Administrator for the district in which the student wants to clerk. Salaries vary by District Court. Additional information can be found on the Supreme Court of Ohio website which links to all District Court homepages at: www.sconet.state.oh.us/judsystem/districtcourts/.

OHIO TRIAL COURTS

Ohio trial courts are referred to as Courts of Common Pleas and are organized by county. The following larger counties are more likely to hire law clerks: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery and Summit. Salaries for these clerkships vary by county. Students should apply to the Court Administrator for the county in which they want to clerk. Additional information is available on the Supreme Court of Ohio website which links to all the Courts of Common Pleas homepages, under their county names, at: www.sconet.state.oh.us/web_sites/courts/.

OREGON

OREGON SUPREME COURT

The Oregon Supreme Court consists of seven justices. The court's primary function is discretionary review of decisions of the Oregon Court of Appeals, then direct appeals or reviews in death penalty, lawyer discipline, Oregon Tax Court or certain other cases. The court has original jurisdiction over mandamus, habeas corpus, and other special proceedings.

OREGON COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the first level of appeal following trial and consist of thirteen judges. The court has jurisdiction to hear all civil and criminal appeals from circuit courts, except death penalty cases, and to review most state administrative agency actions. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the Chief Judge from among the thirteen judges on the Court of Appeals.

OREGON TAX COURT

The Oregon Tax Court consists of one judge and three magistrates. The Tax Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all questions of law or fact arising under the state tax laws.

CLERKSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

The posting for Oregon Appellate Court Clerkships, which include the Oregon Supreme Court, Oregon Court of Appeals and the Oregon Tax Court open each January, and close each April. The positions begin in August of the following year. Applicants may request to be considered for a specific court, or for as many as are hiring. Historically, interviews occur in June, and hiring offers occur in July. The Oregon Judicial Department's Human Resource Services Division only accepts law clerk applications through state of Oregon's Oregon Job Opportunities page. The job announcement, only available to view while the recruitment is open, explains specific application requirements. Many second-year law students apply, with expectation to begin their clerkship after graduation. Many third-year law students and graduates also apply. The August start date of the following year remains the same. Law clerks must possess a juris doctorate (JD) or equivalent, from an ABA-accredited law school, before their clerkship begins. Many law clerks

take a bar examination prior to the start of their clerkship. However, bar membership is not a prerequisite to employment as a law clerk.

PENNSYLVANIA

Almost all judges in Pennsylvania have a career or permanent clerk. Very few hire term clerks.

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

At the Supreme Court level, individual justices have chambers in different cities around the state, then travel to hear matters at courthouses in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices have five to six clerks each. A few of the justices (Castille, Saylor, Eakin, Baer) have two or three of those positions for term clerks, and the rest are career. Some are two year terms and some are one year terms with the possibility of extension. The Supreme Court justices will accept applications in spring of 2L year, through fall of the 3L year, and may call applicants for interviews at any time throughout the fall.

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT, PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT, PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Openings at the intermediate appellate courts and the trial courts are sporadic. When courts or judges have openings, especially in the rural counties, they tend to send vacancy announcements to all Pennsylvania law schools.

The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Human Resources Office maintains a file of applications for law clerk positions, and judges have been known to review those files when searching for a new law clerk. Applications should be directed to:

Human Resources
First Judicial District
City Hall, Room 668
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Justices at the Supreme Court all have their own individual application requirements and timelines. Not all of the justices hire law clerks each year. Interested applicants should contact each individual chambers early in the summer prior to graduation in order to determine which justices will be hiring, what their timelines will be for the upcoming hiring cycle and what application materials are required. The best way to find out about the justices' plans for the upcoming hiring cycle is to call their chambers directly. Typically, those justices who are hiring will accept materials beginning in July or August and will often start interviewing in mid-August or early September. Applicants should be prepared to address their connection to or interest in

working in Rhode Island in both their application materials and their interviews.

Each justice conducts his/her interviews differently. Some justices interview very few applicants while others seem to interview a very large number of applicants. Those justices who tend to interview large numbers of applicants will generally hold off on making any clerkship offers until later in the hiring process. Those justices have, in the past, been known to end interviews by telling candidates to stay in touch and asking candidates to contact them before accepting another clerkship offer. This should be viewed as a genuine statement of interest in the candidate. In some instances, when a candidate then is able to contact the justice to inform him/her that another offer has been extended, the justice will extend the candidate an offer over the phone. If applying to the court, applicants should be aware that such a situation may arise and know how to handle the situation professionally.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts' website (www.tncourts.gov/) has information on the different courts in Tennessee. It also contains a directory of judges with biographies and contact information. Students interested in judicial clerkships in Tennessee should check out this website and note that clerks are not required to pass the Tennessee bar exam.

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. The five justices normally meet in three sections of the state to hear cases: (1) the western section (Jackson); (2) the middle section (Nashville); and (3) the eastern section (Knoxville). The justices' offices are located in Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville.

Each justice has the ability to hire two law clerks. Some justices have career clerks while others hire term clerks. Applicants should mail a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample, and three letters of recommendation to the individual justice of interest. Students should submit their applications in early summer (May) after their 2L year. While some justices wait to conduct interviews in the fall, others will conduct interviews in late summer. Offers can be made as early as July and as late as February.

TENNESSEE APPELLATE COURTS

The Tennessee Appellate Court is divided into the Tennessee Court of Appeals and the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. All appellate court judges are elected on a "retain-replace" ballot every eight years.

Tennessee Court of Appeals

The Tennessee Court of Appeals hears appeals in civil cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 judges who sit in panels of three. The panels meet monthly in Jackson, Nashville, and Knoxville. When necessary, the court may meet in alternate locations. Although the judges meet in three sections of the state, their offices are located across the state in the following cities: Memphis, Jackson, Dyersburg, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga.

Each court of appeals judge has one or two law clerks, depending on whether the judge also has a judicial assistant. Many of the judges have career clerks; however, some hire rotating term clerks. Students interested in a clerkship should apply directly to a judge's chambers. Students should apply during the summer after their 2L year by mailing a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample and letters of recommendation. The judges typically finish interviewing and extend offers by in late fall or early spring.

Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals hears trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. Similar to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the criminal appellate court has 12 judges who sit in panels of three in Jackson, Nashville, and Knoxville. When necessary, the court may meet in alternate locations. Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals judges have offices located throughout the state in the following cities: Memphis, Jackson, Huntington, Nashville, Dickson, and Knoxville.

Each court of criminal appeals judge has one or two law clerks, depending on whether the judge also has a judicial assistant. Many of the judges have career clerks; however, some hire rotating term clerks. Students interested in a clerkship should apply directly to a judge's chambers. Students should apply during the summer after their 2L year by mailing a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample and letters of recommendation. The judges typically finish interviewing and extend offers by late fall or early spring.

TENNESSEE TRIAL COURTS

Tennessee's 95 counties are divided into 31 judicial districts. A clickable map of the judicial districts by county can be found at <http://tncourts.gov/administration/judicial-resources/judicial-district-map>. Within each district are Circuit Courts and Chancery Courts. Some districts also have Criminal Courts and Probate Courts. Judges in these courts are elected to eight year terms.

Circuit courts are courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. Circuit court judges hear civil and criminal cases and appeals of decisions from juvenile, municipal, and general sessions courts. Criminal cases are tried in circuit court except in districts with separate criminal courts established by the General Assembly (the largest districts have separate criminal courts). The jurisdiction of circuit court and chancery court often overlap. Chancery courts are courts of equity that handle a variety of issues including contract disputes, application for injunctions and

name changes. A number of matters, such as divorces, adoptions, and workers' compensation are heard in either chancery or circuit court. Finally, probate courts have jurisdiction over probate of wills and administration of estates. Probate judges also handle conservatorships and guardianships.

Most trial court judges do not hire law school graduates as full-time law clerks. (Most will hire law students on a part-time basis.) There are a few exceptions in the larger districts such as Shelby County, Hamilton County, Knox County, and Davidson County. The courts in these counties encourage students to apply to the individual judge in the fall of their 3L year. Interviews and offers are extended in late fall and spring.

As of April 2018, no individual counties have term clerk positions available but a couple of Appellate Courts have openings posted on the Human Resources page located at <http://www.tncourts.gov/administration/human-resources>.

TEXAS

TEXAS SUPREME COURT

<http://www.txcourts.gov/supreme/>

There are eight justices and one chief justice who sit on this court in Austin, each elected to six-year terms on a staggered basis. It is the highest civil appellate court in the state, and hears civil and juvenile appeals. It is one of the very few (possibly now the only one) of state supreme courts that allows law clerks to sit in conference on its deliberations.

- Every year, each justice hires 2 law clerks, who typically come to the court right after law school. Law clerks are hired for a 1-year term, which begins in September and ends at the end of August.
- Each justice also has a staff attorney, who is a permanent employee. Staff attorneys are lawyers who usually have at least 3 years' practice experience before coming to the court. In most chambers, the staff attorney functions as a chief of staff and is the person directly responsible for overseeing the work of clerks and interns.
- Occasionally, a justice will hire an executive assistant who is a lawyer, whose duties are split between high-level administrative duties and law clerk duties, including legal research and writing.
- There is no specified time-frame for law clerk hiring and the justices vary on when they hire. There is also no application deadline. While students can apply at any time, many justices will consider applications after students have three semesters of grades. Students who apply at that point can update their applications after they receive spring grades.

- Students may apply to as many or as few justices as they desire – the applications are submitted separately to each chambers. The majority of applicants apply to all chambers.
- Students should NOT contact any chambers directly to inquire about the justice’s hiring plans. The court maintains a clerkship brochure on its website that contains application information for each justice. While there is contact person listed on the brochure, the better practice is to check with your career services counselor if you need a question answered. Courts are happy to take their calls, but not those of applicants.

TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

<http://www.txcourts.gov/cca/>

There are eight judges and one chief judge on this court in Austin, each elected to six-year terms on a staggered basis. It is the highest criminal appellate court in the state and hears criminal appeals, including death penalty cases. Each of the judges hires one term law clerk. Most are for a one-year term, but some judges will consider a two-year term for a law clerk. Each judge has his/her own hiring criteria and applications should be made separately to individual chambers. Check the court’s website first for postings, as open postings are sometimes listed there. However, individual chambers may need to be contacted. For more information, contact your career counselor before contacting chambers to determine if a judge is hiring - - courts prefer to take calls from a career services office instead of individual applicants. If your career services office is unable to help you, you can contact individual chambers directly. Judges may take applications as early as the spring of 2L year, but check the website as later postings are sometimes made, even in the spring of 3L year.

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS (FIRST THROUGH FOURTEENTH)

<http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/courts-of-appeals/>

There are 14 intermediate appellate courts throughout the state with approximately 80 justices. These courts hear civil and criminal appeals, except for criminal cases involving the death penalty. Some of the justices take term clerks, known as briefing attorneys, but most have career clerks and do not hire clerks for term positions. This varies by court. Check individual district websites for posted opportunities (<http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/> - drop down menu under “Courts” for individual districts, then look for “Careers”). Sporadically justices in the following districts post and accept applications from 3L students for the coming term: 4th, 11th and 13th. Many districts will hire unpaid interns and externs and those opportunities are posted on the court websites. For more information, contact your career counselor before contacting chambers to determine if a justice is hiring. If your career services office is unable to help you, you can contact individual chambers directly. Applications should be sent in the summer of 2L year, after the applicants have four semesters of grades, although there can be postings as late as spring of 3L year.

TEXAS TRIAL COURTS

The Texas Trial courts do not hire full time clerks after graduation, but many do take volunteer judicial interns throughout the fall, spring and summer, and some judges will take volunteer post-bar interns. Many judges in the district courts, county-level courts, justice courts and municipal courts will have interns but none have a budget to pay interns or clerks. There are programs through which some students can obtain stipends for volunteering as a judicial intern, but they are the exception and not the rule.

VIRGINIA

Information and some employment opportunities within the Virginia Court System may be found at <http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/home.html>. Links to individual Circuit Court and General District Court or Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court homepages may be found on this site. Many Virginia judicial clerkship opportunities may be found at <http://jobs.virginia.gov/>.

SUPREME COURT

All of the seven justices on this court hire term clerks, for terms lasting one to two years. Some also have career clerks. The opening of the application process varies among the seven justices, but most begin accepting applications in the spring of students' second year. All justices require a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample and at least two letters of recommendation. Some justices provide email notification to candidates once their application has been received.

Application deadlines also vary, but it is best to apply before September, as most interviews are held in late summer or early fall. Candidates are notified of interviews by email or letter.

The majority of justices prefer candidates to sit for the bar exam in Virginia. Justice's chambers are located in various areas around the state. The justices ask that candidates be certain they are willing to live in or commute to the area prior to applying for the clerkship.

COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

All of the eleven judges on this court hire term clerks, for terms lasting one to two years. Some also have career clerks. For most judges, the application process is conducted on a rolling basis and remains open until the positions are filled. For this reason, it is best to apply as early as possible. All judges require a cover letter and writing sample. Some also request a transcript and letters of recommendation.

Most interviews are held in the fall; however, some judges choose to interview whenever they receive a candidate's application. Candidates are notified of interviews by telephone, email or letter.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to hone their writing skills. The majority of judges on this court require that candidates take a two to three hour writing test, if called in for an interview. A candidate's writing ability is often weighted more heavily than the substance of their resume or interview.

Since the clerks will be analyzing Virginia law, the Judges on this court prefer that candidates sit for the bar exam in Virginia, although it is not required by all.

VIRGINIA CIRCUIT COURTS

There is a circuit court in each city and county in Virginia (31 circuits and 120 courts). There are General District Courts with limited civil/criminal jurisdiction in all 32 Districts, and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts in all 32 Districts. Some of the circuit courts hire clerks for terms of one year, while some maintain career clerks. Circuit courts that hire term clerks generally begin accepting applications in late summer and early fall of an applicant's third year of law school.

The required application materials range from a cover letter and resume only to cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample, multiple recommendation letters, and a city or county government employment application form. Some circuit courts also require successful candidates to sit for the Virginia bar exam.

Some circuit courts begin conducting interviews in the fall of a candidate's third year, while others wait until the spring semester of to begin conducting interviews. Candidates may be notified of interviews by telephone, email or letter.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Washington is comprised of nine justices, each elected to a six-year term. The Court has no official deadline for judicial clerkship applications. Many of the justices interview potential judicial law clerks in the winter or early spring, so the Court advises applicants to submit their application packages as early as feasible.

Judicial Clerkship information and availability may be found at:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/supreme/?fa=atc_supreme.clerkship

For more specific information about a justice's application deadline, please contact that individual justice's chambers. See link here for directory:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_dir/orgs/112.html

WASHINGTON COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION I

The Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I, is located in Seattle, Washington. Judge biographies and current vacancies can be found at:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/?fa=atc.div1clerks

WASHINGTON COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION II

The Washington State Court of Appeals, Division II, is located in Tacoma, Washington. Judge biographies and current vacancies can be found at:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/?fa=atc.div2clerks. The Court has no official deadline for judicial clerkship applications, however, many of the judges begin interviews in the winter or early spring, so the Court advises applicants to submit their application packages as early as feasible. Interested applicants may apply via email (addresses provided at above link) or via mail by submitting 1) Cover letter; 2) Resume; 3) Self-edited writing sample; 4) Unofficial law school transcript; and 5) Three letters of recommendation (the person writing the letter of recommendation may mail it directly to the judge).

Mail application materials to each judge of interest to:

Washington State Court of Appeals, Division II
950 Broadway, Suite 300
Tacoma, Washington, 98402

WASHINGTON COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION III

The Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III is located in Spokane, Washington. Judge biographies and current vacancies can be found at:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/?fa=atc.display_divs&folderID=div3&fileID=clerkship. Interested candidates must submit 1) Cover letter; 2) Resume; 3) Self-edited writing sample; 4) Unofficial law school transcript; and 5) Three letters of recommendation.

Mail application materials to:

Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III
500 N Cedar St
Spokane, WA 99201

WASHINGTON TRIAL COURTS

Washington State Trial Courts often hire recent graduates for term law clerk positions in Superior, District and Municipal courts. Available positions, application instructions, and hiring timelines vary by county and court. Counties with websites can be found here:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/.

WEST VIRGINIA

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS

The Supreme Court of Appeals is West Virginia's highest court and the court of last resort. The five Supreme Court justices hear appeals of decisions over all matters decided in the circuit courts, including criminal convictions affirmed on appeal from magistrate court and appeals from administrative agencies. The Office of Counsel serves as central staff counsel to the Supreme Court. The Office of Counsel provides memoranda on legal issues to assist the Court in its role as the court of last resort in West Virginia. The various motions and other matters requiring rulings in cases pending before the Court are presented to the Court through the Office of Counsel.

CIRCUIT COURTS

There are thirty-one circuit courts in West Virginia with a total of seventy-four circuit judges. Circuit courts are West Virginia's only general jurisdiction trial courts of record.

The Administrative Office of West Virginia Courts recruits applicants year-round to screen for the creation of the pool of qualified candidates from which the circuit judges will make their hiring decisions. Law clerks can be hired directly by the circuit judge from either the pool of qualified candidates screened by the Administrative Office or from outside the pool, provided that the candidate is first approved by the Administrative Office. Law Clerk positions are posted at http://www.courtswv.gov/jobs_clerks.html.

WYOMING

SUPREME COURT OPPORTUNITIES (THERE IS NO INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS)

Most justices hire permanent Staff Attorneys as law clerks, but will occasionally use the Judicial Assistant position to hire a term elbow clerk. Candidates should share their connections to Wyoming or the Rocky Mountain region in their cover letters. Regardless, all positions are posted through the Wyoming Judicial Center Careers page at: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Administration/Careers>

DISTRICT COURT OPPORTUNITIES

All Districts have at least one law clerk, and the larger Districts have multiple clerks. The judges prefer two year commitments, but the hiring is done throughout the year. Candidates should share their connections to Wyoming or the Rocky Mountain region in their cover letters. Candidates should pay special attention to the job posting and materials requested, as most changes tweak their postings based on trying to weed out those who neglect to follow instructions. All positions are posted through the Wyoming Judicial Center Careers page at: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Administration/Careers>

INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All levels of courts will accept students as unpaid interns or externship credit. The contact information for the Supreme Court, District Courts, and Circuit Courts can be found on the Wyoming Judicial Branch site: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/>. Contact information for Municipal Court judges will be found on the individual municipal websites.