

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 2016-6

OFFICE OF THE CLERK UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

DATE: February 11, 2016

POSITION TITLE: Pro Se Law Clerk (part-time; subject to annual allocation of pro se law clerk positions issued by the Administrative Office; possibility of position transforming to full-time status in future)

LOCATION: Knoxville, TN

SALARY: JSP 11/1 to JSP 14/10 (\$59,246 to \$129,723)* depending on qualifications and experience.
*All salaries listed above are full-time. This position is currently a part-time 50% position, and the salary will be 50% of the listed amount.

CLOSING DATE: February 25, 2016

POSITION OVERVIEW:

The U.S. District Court Clerk's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee is recruiting for a part-time temporary Pro Se Law Clerk position with legal experience. This appointment will begin in August 2016, for a period of one year and one day, with the possibility of annual extensions if supporting case filings justify. There is also a possibility that the position may transform to full-time status in the future. Job duties include:

- Performs substantive screening of all prisoner and inmate petitions and motions, including state habeas corpus petitions, motions to vacate sentence, and civil rights complaints. Drafts appropriate recommendations and orders for the Court's signature.
- Reviews all complaints, petitions, and pleadings to determine issues involved and basis for relief.
- Performs research, as required, to assist the Court in preparing opinions.
- Maintains liaison between the Court and litigants. Corresponds with other officials, such as U.S. Attorney, as required.
- Evaluates procedures to determine new innovations for increasing the effectiveness in handling complaints, petitions, and pleadings. Reviews the docket of pending prisoner and inmate litigation to assure the proper progress of the cases and advises the Court of those cases where action by the Court is appropriate.
- Compiles statistics and prepares periodic reports, as required, reflecting the status and flow of cases. Identifies problem areas, makes recommendations, and offers solutions, as required by the Court, Administrative Office, and other officials.
- Keeps abreast of changes in the law to aid the Court in adjusting to new legislation and case law in the pro se area.
- Provides information, guidance, and advice to district judges, magistrate judges, and other personnel working in the pro se area. Advises appropriate personnel on the status of particular cases. Performs other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be law school graduates with strong academic records and possess excellent research and writing skills. Candidates also must possess strong case management skills and the ability to work independently in a production oriented, high-volume work environment. The ability to orally present complicated legal matters to judges is required, as is proficiency in Microsoft Word. Candidates who possess one or more years of relevant post-graduate or federal clerkship experience are highly preferred.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

For appointment at a JSP Grade 11, an applicant must be a law school graduate from a law school of recognized standing and have demonstrated one of the following accomplishments or proficiencies:

- Graduation in the upper third of a law school class;
- Experience on the editorial board of a law review;
- Graduation from law school with an LLM degree; or
- Proficiency in legal studies that, in the opinion of the appointing judge, is the equivalent of one of the above.

For appointments to JSP Grades 12, 13 or 14, an applicant must also be a member of the bar of a state, territory, or federal court of general jurisdiction and must possess the following year(s) of full-time legal work experience after graduation from law school:

- JSP 12 - one year of legal work experience
- JSP 13 - two years of legal work experience
- JSP 14 - three years of legal work experience

REPORTING RELATIONSHIP:

The pro se law clerk will work throughout the district with various judges and their staff to whom the pro se cases are assigned. The pro se law clerk will report to and work under the direction of the Chief Judge or his designee as to coordination and prioritization of work among chambers and as to administrative matters.

BENEFITS:

Employees of the U.S. District Court are "Excepted Appointments" and considered "At Will" judicial employees subject to a six-month probationary period. Federal Civil Service classifications and regulations do not apply. Court employees are entitled to the same benefits as other federal employees such as:

- Thirteen days of paid vacation for the first three calendar years, twenty days after three years and twenty-six days after fifteen years.
- Ten paid federal holidays per calendar year.
- Participation in a Federal Employees Health Insurance Program.
- Participation in Group Life Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, and Long-Term Disability Insurance programs.
- Participation in a pre-tax Flexible Benefits Spending Account.
- Participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System with investment opportunities through the Thrift Savings Plan.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- U.S. District Court employees serve under “Excepted Appointments” and are considered “at will.” Employment can be terminated with or without cause by the Court. Federal Civil Service classifications and regulations do not apply.
- U.S. District Court employees are required to adhere to the *Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees* and are subject to strict confidentiality requirements.
- Salary payments are subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (direct deposit).
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or eligible to work in the United States.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Submit one document in PDF format via e-mail to jobs@tned.uscourts.gov that includes the following:

- A cover letter addressing the qualifications, skills and experience necessary to perform the job;
- A resume, including a list of professional references;
- Two writing samples, each no more than ten pages in length; and
- A completed AO 78, Application for Federal Judicial Branch Employment (available on the court’s website at www.tned.uscourts.gov/docs/ao78.pdf)

INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS AND SUBMISSIONS THAT ARE NOT RECEIVED IN ONE PDF DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.

- Only applicants selected for an interview will be notified.
- Employment references will be checked prior to a job offer.
- The successful candidate will undergo a mandatory FBI fingerprint check/background investigation and will be considered a provisional employee pending successful completion of the investigation.
- The court is not authorized to reimburse candidates for travel in connection with an interview or pay for any relocation expenses.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement or to withdraw the announcement without written notice to applicants. If a subsequent vacancy of the same position becomes available within a reasonable time of the original announcement, the court may elect to select a candidate from the original qualified applicant pool.

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
AND VALUES DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE**