

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 2018-7

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

DATE: October 3, 2018

POSITION TITLE: Pro Se Law Clerk (Part-Time Temporary)

LOCATION: Knoxville, TN

SALARY: JSP 11/1 to JSP 14/10 (\$61,218 to \$134,038)
Dependent upon qualifications and experience in accordance with the Judiciary Salary Plan. All salaries listed above are full-time. This position is currently part-time, and the salary will be 50% of the listed amount.

CLOSING DATE: October 17, 2018

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. Pro Se Law Clerk positions are subject to available funding, dependent upon annual court filings. This position is currently funded through December 31, 2019. The appointment is expected to begin no later than December 2018 and is for a minimum of one year and one day with the possibility of an extension for an additional 1-3 years if supporting case filings justify. Job duties include:

- Performing substantive screening of all prisoner and inmate petitions and motions, including state habeas corpus petitions, motions to vacate sentence, and civil rights complaints. Drafting appropriate recommendations and orders for the Court's signature.
- Reviewing all complaints, petitions, and pleadings to determine issues involved and basis for relief.
- Performing research, as required, to assist the Court in preparing opinions.
- Maintaining liaison between the Court and litigants. Corresponding with other officials, such as U.S. Attorney, as required.
- Evaluating procedures to determine new innovations for increasing the effectiveness in handling complaints, petitions, and pleadings. Reviewing the docket of pending prisoner and inmate litigation to assure the proper progress of the cases and advising the Court of those cases where action by the Court is appropriate.
- Compiling statistics and preparing periodic reports, as required, reflecting the status and flow of cases. Identifying problem areas, making recommendations, and offering solutions, as required by the Court, Administrative Office, and other officials.
- Keeping abreast of changes in the law to aid the Court in adjusting to new legislation and case law in the pro se area.
- Providing information, guidance, and advice to district judges, magistrate judges, and other personnel working in the pro se area. Advising appropriate personnel on the status of particular cases. Performing 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.

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.

BENEFITS:

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 the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance

(FEGLI) Program.

- Supplemental benefits including health and dependent care reimbursement accounts, commuter benefits, and long-term care insurance.
- Participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) with investment opportunities through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

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 <http://www.tned.uscourts.gov/sites/tned/files/ao78.pdf>).

Interested qualified applicants can also apply through OSCAR (<https://oscar.uscourts.gov/>). Multiple submissions are not required.

INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS AND SUBMISSIONS THAT ARE NOT RECEIVED IN ONE PDF FILE 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***