



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Term Law Clerk Vacancy Announcement

Position:	Term Law Clerk*
Vacancy Number:	2018-05
Position Type:	Full-Time
Tenure:	Two-Year Term (Possible extension not to exceed four years)
Location:	Lafayette, Louisiana
Salary Range:	Starting Salary JSP 11/1 (\$61,218) to JSP 14/10 (\$134,038) **
Opening Date:	September 7, 2018
Closing Date:	Open until filled

**By Judicial Council policy, a Term Law Clerk may not serve more than four years in the federal system.*

***The classification level and salary for this position will be based upon experience and education in accordance with the Judiciary Salary Plan for the U. S. Courts. Starting salary commensurate with qualifications and work experience. This position is promotion eligible without further competition.*

The court has only one open position that may be filled with either a career or term law clerk depending on the unique qualifications of the applicant. Applicants should indicate on their cover letter whether applying for either the career or term law clerk position or both.

Position:

The U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Louisiana is seeking a Term Law Clerk. A Law Clerk to a U. S. Bankruptcy Judge will perform substantive review, legal research, and writing on matters pending before the Court.

Law Clerk Duties:

- Performs legal research.
- Drafts legal documents addressing various issues arising in bankruptcy proceedings.
- Assists the judge during court proceedings and reviews orders.
- Reviews motions, applications, petitions, complaints, and other pleadings filed with the Court to determine the issues involved and the basis for relief.
- Drafts proposed opinions, memorandum decisions, and orders.
- Reviews electronic case files and briefs judge on critical issues prior to hearing and trials.
- Presents cases and motions to judge and explains (orally and in writing) the proposed recommendation, and any choices to be made.
- Provides administrative office functions such as editing, proofreading, telephone communication, written correspondence, and scheduling.
- Keeps abreast of changes in the law and briefs the judge.
- Travels to attend hearings and conferences.

- Performs other day-to-day law clerk duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

To qualify for the position of law clerk on the personal staff of a federal judge, an applicant must be a law school graduate (or be certified as having completed all law school studies and requirements and merely awaiting conferment of degree) from a law school of recognized standing, and have one or more of the following attributes:

- Standing within the upper third of the law school class from a law school on the approved list of either the American Bar Association or the Association of American Law Schools;
- Experience on the editorial board of a law review of such a school;
- Graduation from such a school with an LLM degree; or
- Demonstrated proficiency in legal studies which, in the opinion of the judge, is equivalent to one of the above.

To qualify for grade 12 in the Judicial Salary Plan (JSP), one year of legal work experience following law school graduation is required. To qualify for JSP grade 13, two years of legal work experience following law school graduation is required. To qualify for JSP grade 14, three years of legal work experience following law school graduation is required, and two of the three years must have been served as a law clerk in the federal judiciary. With the exception of grade 11, a bar membership is also required.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Strong academic record and excellent writing and legal research skills;
- Exceptional managerial, organizational, computer, and computer-assisted legal research skills;
- Ability to meet deadlines and be punctual for meetings and hearings;
- Member in good standing or pending application to become a member in good standing with a state bar;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality, possesses good judgment and maturity, is dependable and responsible, and a self-starter who demonstrates initiative in problem-solving;
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, and to present a poised, professional appearance and demeanor at all times;
- Strong people and time-management skills with the ability to meet and manage many changing priorities and demands in a distracting environment; and
- Previous experience as a federal law clerk or bankruptcy attorney, and/or familiarity with bankruptcy law through course work.

Background Check and Other Requirements:

As a condition of employment, the selected candidate will be subject to a background investigation, which will include criminal history and FBI fingerprinting. The selected candidate may be appointed provisionally, and retention will depend upon a favorable suitability

determination of the background check or investigation. The applicant must be a United States citizen or provide documentation proving eligibility to work in the United States.

Additional Information:

This position is subject to mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer participation for payment of net pay. The Court does not reimburse interview costs and/or relocation expenses. The U. S. Bankruptcy Court is part of the Judicial Branch of the U. S. Government. Employees of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court are “At Will” employees and are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees.

Benefits

Law Clerks appointed to term appointments are eligible for the following benefits: health, dental, vision and life insurance coverage, flexible spending plan, and long-term care insurance and ten (10) paid Federal holidays. Term law clerks are subject to Social Security and Medicare deductions, but are not eligible to participate in the retirement system or the Thrift Savings Plan.

Application Process:

The application package consists of the following:

- 1) Cover letter,
- 2) Application for Judicial Branch Employment (Form AO-78). Application may be found on the court’s website: www.lawb.uscourts.gov (See Court/Employment),
- 3) Detailed resume,
- 4) Copy of law school transcript and bar membership, if applicable
- 5) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references, and
- 6) A legal writing sample.

Submit all required documents to the address provided below or email the application packet via pdf format with the subject line “**HR Confidential**” 2018-05 to: joann_walker@lawb.uscourts.gov.

U. S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of Louisiana
Attn: Human Resources “Confidential” 2018-05
300 Fannin St., Suite 2201
Shreveport, LA 71101

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Candidates selected for interviews must travel at their own expense.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, withdraw the announcement, or fill the position at any time, any of which may occur without prior written notice.

The United States Bankruptcy Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer