

“Judicial Clerkships: From Mainstream to Off the Beaten Path”
NALP Educational Conference Session, April 30, 2010

Applying to judges and courts that are “off the beaten path” provide all of the benefits of more “mainstream” clerkships, with additional possible benefits such as gaining expertise in a specialty area of the law; smaller, more individualized courts and experiences; and possibly even exotic or adventurous locales! In addition, these clerkships *may* be less competitive than clerkships in more populous areas or more well-known courts.

Tips for searching for clerkships off the beaten path:

- Be creative! If you/your students are interested in a specific geographic location and/or a specific area of the law, chances are there is a clerkship to match.
- Network! Don’t be shy about reaching out to clerkship advisors and former clerks from other schools. The Clerkship Section of NALP can be helpful with this.
- Information on many of the state court clerkships mentioned below can be found in Vermont Law School’s very helpful *Guide to State Judicial Clerkships*. If you do not have access to the *Guide*, contact Vermont Law School’s Office of Career Services at 802- 831-1243 to subscribe.

Examples of Federal Clerkships “Off the Beaten Path”

Name/Type of Court/Judge	Where To Find More Information
Administrative Law Judges	Websites for agencies: http://www.justice.gov/agencies/ ; “ALJ Contact Information and Hiring Practices Survey,” handout from 2009 NALP Conference
Judges on Senior Status	OSCAR: https://oscar.symplicity.com/
Staff Attorney Positions with Circuit Courts	OSCAR: https://oscar.symplicity.com/ (beginning with Version 6.0 released in May 2010); “Judicial Clerkships: Federal Staff Attorney Positions,” <i>NALP Bulletin</i> , Dec 2008
Judges who sit in Yosemite and Yellowstone national parks	OSCAR: https://oscar.symplicity.com/
Judges who sit in U.S. Territories (Guam, Northern Marina Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)	OSCAR: https://oscar.symplicity.com/
U.S. Tax Court	http://www.ustaxcourt.gov/lc_program.htm
U.S. Court of Federal Claims	http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/
U.S. Court of International Trade	http://www.cit.uscourts.gov/hr/chambers_employment.htm
U.S. Court of Appeals for Armed Forces	http://www.armfor.uscourts.gov/Clerkships.htm
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	http://www.uscourts.cavc.gov/

Examples of State Clerkships “Off the Beaten Path”

Name/Type of Court/Judge	Where To Find More Information
Staff Attorney Positions	Individual state courts’ websites; Vermont Law School’s <i>Guide To State Judicial Clerkships</i>
Delaware Court of Chancery	http://www.courts.delaware.gov/courts/court%20of%20chancery/
Mississippi Courts of Chancery	http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/trialcourts/chancerycourt/chancerycourt.html
Commercial Division of Supreme Court of New York	http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/comdiv/
New Jersey Tax Court	http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/taxcourt/index.htm
Maine Business and Consumer Court	http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/specialized/business/index.shtml
Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal	http://www.courts.ri.gov/traffic/defaulttraffic.htm
Massachusetts Land Court	http://www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/landcourt/index.html
Vermont Environmental Court	http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/GTC/environmental/default.aspx
Water courts (Colorado, Montana)	http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Water/Index.cfm ; http://courts.mt.gov/water/default.mcp
Intermediate courts of criminal appeals (Alabama, Tennessee)	http://judicial.alabama.gov/criminal.cfm ; http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/GENINFO/bio/crimappeals/biocca.htm
Highest level court of criminal appeals (Texas)	http://www.cca.courts.state.tx.us/
Local courts for U.S. territories (Guam, Northern Marina Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)	http://www.guamsupremecourt.com/ ; http://www.cnmilaw.org/htmlpage/hpg34.htm ; http://www.ramajudicial.pr/ ; http://www.visupremecourt.org/

Examples of Other Clerkships “Off the Beaten Path”

Name/Type of Court/Judge	Where To Find More Information
Native American Tribal Courts	http://www.tribal-institute.org/ ; http://www.nationalnalsa.org/category/job-opportunities/
International Courts and Tribunals (some international courts <i>specifically contemplate</i> foreign-educated law clerks)	http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/CDO_Public/IntltribunalsPUBLIC-cdo-FINAL2008.pdf