



BEYOND ARTICLE III COURTS

STATE & SPECIALTY FEDERAL
CLERKSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Non-Article III Clerkship Opportunities

Welcome! Why are we here?

- A well-rounded clerkship search
- A specialized clerkship search



Leveraging Faculty

Two-tiered Approach

- Seek assistance from your faculty clerkship committee in promoting the benefits of non-Article III and state specialty court clerkships to potential applicants
- Connect with faculty with expertise in specific area of court's jurisdiction.
- Connect with faculty who know work of the applicants in that concentrated area.

Non-Article III Clerkship Opportunities



1. What are Non-Article III Courts?

- **Federal Courts**
 - Magistrate
 - Bankruptcy
 - Immigration
 - Tax
 - International trade
- **State Courts**
 - Business courts
 - Juvenile courts
 - Drug courts

2. Benefits of Specialty Courts

3. Stakeholder Buy-In

THE NON-ARTICLE III CLERKSHIP SEARCH



The Applications Needs to Be Specific

- **The cover letter needs to explain the following:**
 1. **Tells the employer who you are** (e.g., a second-year student law student) and what you are seeking (e.g., a judicial clerkship position in your chambers/court);
 2. **Demonstrates your writing skills;**
 3. **Demonstrates your commitment to legal research and writing and conveys that you have something to contribute to their court;**
 4. **Shows that you and that employer are a good "fit"**





Highlight Relevant Accomplishments

- Law Review or Journal Experience
 - Don't forget published article or you notes
- Certain relevant course work like Bankruptcy, Tax, Family, Wills, Trust and Estates
- Research Assistant Positions to professors in relevant fields
- Specific Bar Associations Memberships
- Including any conference or events or presentations the candidate might have participated in or led
- Relevant pre-law work or activities

Advising International Students



Know Your Status, Choose Your Court

- a) In general, most federal courts will not consider candidates who aren't U.S. citizens
- b) State Courts and some non-contiguous (states or territories) might hire students with an F-1 or J-1 visa.

State Courts (Especially Specialty Courts) are great experiences

- a) Work with international students early and often and help them map out a game plan for post-graduation

Managing Multiple Clerkship Applications



- **Plant seeds early!**
 - 1L programs that include Non-Article III courts and why students should apply to them
 - Invite judges and current/past clerks who work in these courts
- **Keep spreadsheets of multiple courts and judge's deadlines**
 - Not all courts and judges follow the hiring plan
 - State courts do not follow the federal timeline so students must keep that in mind during the application season
 - Some judges (like Tax and Bankruptcy judges) will wait until after the June 2021 rush to hire, so encourage students to keep active in their clerkship search

Interviews

- Two mock interviews
 - With career counselor
 - With professor that focuses on questions relating to the Court's jurisdiction
- General clerkship interview tips apply
- Review resume and writing sample
- To read or not to read judge opinions?
- Prior clerk advice
- Prep for the current clerk
- Understand the importance of long-term court staff
- Plan for contingencies, including tech issues (no one wants to show up with a cat filter!)

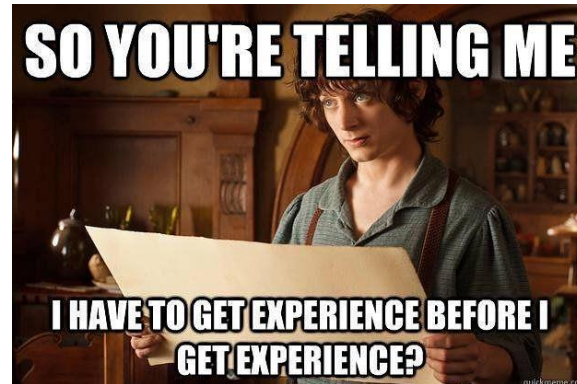


COUNSELING GRADUATES



Considerations

- Preference for clerks with experience
- Understanding timelines
- Employer approval vs. Transitioning to another position
- Difference in pay
- Writing samples
- Career Clerk opportunities



Resources

*For counseling students & graduates
for non-Article III clerkship
opportunities*



1. NALP's Insight and Inside Information for State Court Clerkships Guide (on NALP Connect)
2. PSJD.org
3. OSCAR
4. U.S. Tax Court Law Clerk Program
(https://www.ustaxcourt.gov/law_clerk_program.html)
5. U.S. DOJ Attorney General's Honors Program
(<https://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/honors-program-participating-components>)
6. National Center for State Courts,
 - a. Special Jurisdictions page
(<https://www.ncsc.org/topics/special-jurisdiction>)
 - b. Companion Sites & Resources page
(<https://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/companion-sites>)
 - c. State Court Websites page
(<https://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/state-court-websites>)