

Judicial Clerkships 101

Presentation for Newer Professionals

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The Basics: What does a clerk do and why do so many students (and alumni) want this job?

- “Elbow Clerk”
- Legal Research and Writing
- Mentoring
- Credentials
- Behind the scenes

Federal vs. State

- Federal Clerkships: United States Supreme Court, Circuit Courts of Appeal, District Courts and others including bankruptcy, magistrate judges, Court of International Trade, Court of Claims, Administrative Law Judges
- State Clerkships: High state courts (sometimes called Supreme Court, sometimes not), intermediate appellate courts (sometimes call superior courts), trial courts and other including family court, mental health courts, drug courts, juvenile courts, etc.

Content of Applications

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Law School Transcript
- Undergraduate and other grad school transcripts (sometimes)
- Writing Sample
- Letters of Recommendation

Federal Applications

- Paper
- OSCAR
- Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan
Timing Guidelines
- Alumni Applicants vs. Student Applicants

State Applications

- Almost entirely paper
- Deadlines vary
- Centralized applications
- Individually directed applications
- Start with Vermont Law School's Guide to State Judicial Clerkships
- Follow up with Individual outreach – that means call chambers

Resources

- Vermont Law School Guide to State Court Judicial Clerkships: www.vermontlaw.edu
- OSCAR: <https://oscar.uscourts.gov/>
- Strauss: Behind the Bench
- Clerkship Notification Blog:
<http://lawschoolclerkship.blogspot.com>
- The Law Clerk Addict Blog:
<http://www.lawclerkaddict.com/>
- Leadership Directories – Judiciary Yellow Book
- Almanac of the Federal Judiciary (on Westlaw)