

United States District Court, Southern District of Florida
Notice of Vacancy

Position Title: Law Clerk to U. S. District Judge Ursula Ungaro
No. of Vacancies: One full-time position
 (For eighteen month term appointment)
Ann. No: 2016-JDS-04
Location: Miami, Florida
Salary Range: Commensurate with Legal Work Experience
 (Additional Information provided below)
Open Date: March 10, 2016
Closing Date: Open Until Filled
Desired Start Date: Fall 2016

There is a lifetime limitation of four (4) cumulative years of term clerkship service with the United States Courts. Service as a career law clerk or as a temporary law clerk is not charged against the four year lifetime limitation. Please Do Not Contact Chambers by telephone or by email.

Position Overview

Administrative responsibilities: This position will have more responsibility for administrative tasks than other Term Law Clerks in Chambers. Such tasks include responding to inquiries from the public and the press on behalf of the Judge; preparing correspondence for the Judge's signature; reviewing the criminal docket in order to monitor case progress; assisting the Judge in preparing for speaking commitments and community service projects; assisting the courtroom deputy in maintaining the docket; processing mail; interacting with Court personnel; preparing jury instructions and various administrative orders.

Law Clerk responsibilities: Enjoys full responsibility for all aspects of all criminal cases, and some assigned civil cases from inception to conclusion. Reviews indictments, complaints, petitions, motions, and pleadings that have been filed to identify and analyze the issues involved and basis for relief; performs legal research as required; identifies problem areas, makes recommendations, and offers solutions in assigned cases; provides information and advice to the U.S. District Judge in connection with pending litigation; drafts appropriate recommendations and substantive orders for the Court's signature; keeps abreast of changes in the law to aid the Judge in keeping current; and performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications/Requirements

- To qualify for the position of law clerk on the personal staff of a federal judge, a person 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 the equivalent of one of the above.

Court Preferred Skills:

- A standing within the upper quarter (25%) of the class upon graduation from law school.
- Previous federal clerkship experience and/or prior litigation experience in the private or public sector.
- A minimum of 2 years of legal work experience gained after law school graduation.
- Outstanding legal research and writing skills.
- Proficient computer skills, internet research, and word processing skills.

Salary

The pay rate offered is subject to Judicial Officer approval.

Eligible for Appointment at JSP Grade Level:	Years of Legal Work Experience Required after Law School Graduation:	Bar Membership Required
JSP Grade 11, Step 1 (\$62,717)	0	No
JSP Grade 12, Step 1 (\$75,173)	1 Full-Time Year	Yes
JSP Grade 13, Step 1 (\$89,391)	2 Full-Time Years	Yes
JSP Grade 14* Step 1 (\$105,632)	3 Full-Time Years	Yes

**Note: Availability of the JSP Grade 14 pay rate is subject to restrictions of the Judicial Salary Plan pay system as no judge may increase to more than one the number of chambers law clerks paid at the rate of JSP 14 or above. In addition, appointment at or promotion to JSP Grade 14, requires two years of federal chambers law clerk, staff attorney, pro se law clerk, bankruptcy appellate panel law clerk, or death penalty law clerk experience.*

Legal Work Experience

Progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, in legal research, legal administration or equivalent experience received after graduation from law school. Major or substantial legal activities while in military service may be credited, on a month-for-month basis whether before or after graduation, but not to exceed one year if before graduation from law school.

Crediting of Bar Examination Preparation Course

In crediting work experience subsequent to graduation from law school, it is the practice of the Judiciary, when so informed, to count as work experience courses taken for purposes of passing the bar examination, if a separate examination in addition to completion of law school is required by the state. The time credited is either the actual duration of the bar examination preparatory course or a maximum of six weeks, whichever is less. This credit presumes full-time study in such a preparatory course. Part-time study while engaged in full-time employment is not counted. In crediting the six weeks or less, the maximum allowable credit may not always be realized if the time falls between pay periods, since pay increases are effective at the beginning of the next pay period after the Administrative Office is informed that the candidate has met the eligibility criteria.

Personal Characteristics

The successful candidate is mature, responsible, poised, tactful, exercises good judgment, uses initiative, and maintains a professional appearance and demeanor at all times. Candidate is also able to work harmoniously with others and communicates effectively, both orally and in writing.

Background Check

This is a Sensitive position within the Judiciary. The selected candidate will be subject to a criminal history background check and a technical fingerprint check through the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division database as a condition of employment. Employment will be considered provisional until the background check is completed.

Benefits

The following benefits are available to Term Law Clerks appointed for at least one year and one day:

- Ten paid national holidays per calendar year.
- Participation in a pre-tax Federal Employees Health Insurance Program.
- Participation in group insurance programs in the areas of: Dental/Vision, Life, Long Term Care, Long Term Disability.
- Participation in a pre-tax Flexible Spending Account.

How To Apply

A complete application consists of a detailed resume that includes exact dates of employment, salary history, copy of law school transcript, bar membership, if applicable, and a legal writing sample. “Please Do Not Contact Chambers by telephone or by email.”

Applications should be directed to:

Chambers of U. S. District Judge Ursula Ungaro
United States District Court, Southern District of Florida
400 North Miami Avenue, Room 12-4Miami, Florida 33128

Employment with the United States Courts

Employees of the United States District Court serve under “Excepted Appointment” and are considered “At-Will” employees. The Federal Courthouse and Chambers are designated as non-smoking areas. EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) is mandatory, therefore payment for net pay (paycheck) is issued via direct deposit.

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.