

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

Position: Law Clerk to United States Magistrate Judge Patrick A. White
This is a Term Appointment with length of tenure to be determined.

No. of Vacancies: One full-time position

Ann. No: 2016-JDS-05

Location: Miami, Florida

Salary Range: Commensurate with Legal Work Experience
(Additional Information provided below)

Open Date: 03/17/2016

Closing Date: 04/07/2016

Desired Start Date: Immediately but Negotiable

There is a lifetime limitation of four (4) 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.

Position Overview

Provides information, guidance and advice to the U.S. Magistrate Judge in connection with pending civil and criminal litigation. Drafts appropriate recommendations and orders for the Court's signature. Reviews all complaints, petitions, motions, and pleadings that have been filed to determine issues involved and basis for relief. Performs research as required. Maintains liaison between the Court and litigants; corresponds with other court officials. Evaluates procedures. Reviews docket of pending litigation to assure proper progress. Keeps Judge advised of those cases where action is appropriate. Compiles statistics and prepares periodic reports, as required. Identifies problem areas, makes recommendations, and offers solutions, as required. Keeps abreast of changes in the law to aid the Judge in adjusting to new legislation. Advises appropriate personnel on status of particular cases. Performs other duties as assigned.

This position works side-by-side with and includes some duties of Pro Se Law Clerk. Provides legal advice and assistance to the Court in connection with prisoner petitions and complaints. Performs substantive screening after filing of all prisoner and inmate petitions and motions, including state habeas corpus petitions, and civil rights complaints. Maintains liaison between the Court and officials, such as U.S. Attorney, State Attorney General, and the Volunteer Lawyers' Project. Keeps Court advised of those cases where action by the Court is appropriate. Keeps abreast of changes in the law to aid the Court in adjusting to new legislation in the pro-se area. Provides information, guidance, and advice to judges, magistrates, and other personnel working in the pro-se area.

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.

A minimum of 3 years of previous federal clerkship experience and/or prior litigation experience in the private or public sector 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

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:

- 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 legal writing sample.

Please submit all application documents electronically to: paw_lcapplicants@flsd.uscourts.gov

Chambers of U. S. Magistrate Judge Patrick A. White
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C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse
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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.