



United States District Court, Northern District of New York
100 S. Clinton St.
Syracuse, NY 13261
www.nynd.uscourts.gov

Announcement Number: 26-DC-08

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Term Law Clerk

Location: Syracuse, New York

Grade Level/Salary: Grade 11 (\$74,678) - Grade 13 (\$106,437). Placement above step 1 is based on previous federal service and highest previous rate rule. Final salary setting based on review and approval of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. (See Qualification Requirements for experience required for each grade level.)

Status: Full Time

Opening Date: March 2, 2026

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Projected Start Date: Early October 2026

Introduction: The United States District Court for the Northern District of New York is seeking a term law clerk for the Honorable Carla B. Freedman, U.S. Magistrate Judge in Syracuse, New York. This position is an 18-month appointment with the possibility of extension (not to exceed four years). Any prior service as a federal term judicial law clerk counts toward the four-year lifetime limit.

Summary of Representative Duties and Responsibilities: Reviews legal submissions; performs legal research; prepares proposed decisions and draft opinions, particularly in connection with prisoner civil rights cases, prisoner habeas corpus petitions, Social Security Disability appeals, and other civil actions, including pro se civil lawsuits; and drafts orders addressing a wide variety of issues arising in civil litigation. Assists with case management through the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system. Performs administrative office functions such as editing, proofreading, telephone communications, and written correspondence. A law clerk works cooperatively with other members of the judge's staff to effectively support the judge in fulfilling her judicial responsibilities.

Qualifications: To qualify for the position of judicial law clerk, an individual 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 demonstrated one of the following accomplishments or proficiencies:

- 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
- Proficiency in legal studies that, in the opinion of the appointment judge, is the equivalent of one of the above. Some examples of criteria that are acceptable as equivalent include the following:

- Publication of a noteworthy article in a law school student publication or other scholarly publication;
- Special high-level honors for academic excellence in law school, such as election to the Order of the Coif;
- Winning of a moot court competition or membership on a moot court team that represents the law school in competition with other law schools;
- Participation in the legal aid or other law school clinical program sanctioned by the law school;* or
- Summer experience as a law clerk to a state or local judge or law clerk experience on a continuing basis in a private firm while attending school, i.e., working one's way through college.*

**To receive credit, participation and experience could not have been for academic credit.*

Preferred Experience: The candidate should have:

- Experience as a federal judicial intern with significant writing assignments, or
- Post-graduate legal work experience with civil rights litigation (42 U.S.C. § 1983), Social Security appeals, and/or federal discovery practice.

Legal Work Experience: Legal work experience is 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.

The table below shows the number of years of legal work experience required to qualify for appointment as a law clerk at the applicable JSP grade level. Please note that appointment to a JSP-12 or above requires that the candidate be a member of the bar of a state, territory, or federal court of general jurisdiction.

JSP Grade Level	Years of legal work experience	Bar Membership Required
11	0	No
12	1	Yes
13	2	Yes

Background Investigation & The Fair Chance to Compete Act (FCA): This position is **not** covered under the FCA. Due to the sensitivity level of this position, candidates may be asked about their criminal history prior to receiving a tentative offer of employment. Candidates completing the AO-78 must complete questions 18-20 regarding their criminal history. Criminal history is not in itself disqualifying. All available information, past and present, favorable and unfavorable, about the reliability and trustworthiness of an individual will be considered when making an employment suitability determination. Providing false and/or misleading information may be grounds for removal from the application and selection process, as well as disciplinary action if discovered after an individual's date of hire.

Additional Information: Applicants must be U.S. citizens or eligible to work in the United States. The Federal Financial Management Reform Act requires direct deposit of federal wages. The individual selected for this position must sign up for direct deposit for payment of salary.

Employees are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees, which is available to applicants upon request. Employees of the United States District Court are Excepted Service Appointments.

Excepted Appointments are “at will” and can be terminated with or without cause by the Court.

The Court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation, please notify human resources. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Benefits: Employees of the United States District Court are not included in the Government’s Civil Service classification. They are, however, entitled to the same benefits as other federal government employees. These benefits include:

- Participation in a federal health insurance program.
- Participation in federal dental and vision plans.
- Participation in a group life insurance program.
- Participation in long-term care insurance program.
- Participation in a flexible spending account.
- A minimum of eleven (11) paid holidays per year.
- Student loan forgiveness.
- Telework.
- Paid parking.
- Fitness Center on-site.

Application Process: Individuals interested in being considered for this position are asked to submit: (1) a letter of interest, (2) resume, (3) writing sample (no more than 15 pages), (4) unofficial law school transcript, and (5) at least two letters of recommendation using the Online System for Clerkship Application and Review (OSCAR) at oscar.uscourts.gov.

*If you fail to provide the required documents, your application package may be considered incomplete and may not be considered. Participation in the interview process will be at the applicant’s own expense. The Court will not pay relocation expenses. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. The United States District Court, Northern District of New York reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement; to withdraw the job announcement or to fill the position earlier than the closing date. Any of which may occur without prior written notice. **This Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.***