COURTS WHERE CLERKS ARE AVAILABLE

Federal Courts
U.S. Supreme Court – prior USCA clerkship and practice experience is normal
U.S. Court of Appeals – 13 Circuits: 11 numbered, Federal and D.C. Circuit
U.S. District Courts – trial division of federal courts; presided over by federal judges and
magistrate judges. Federal magistrate judges usually hear the same matters heard by federal
judges – don’t overlook these opportunities.
U.S. Bankruptcy Courts – the Federal Bankruptcy Code controls all bankruptcies which are
filed under the jurisdiction of federal courts. Each district has a bankruptcy court.

Special Courts - Congress established Special Courts which employ judicial clerks;
jurisdiction is allocated by subject matter:
U.S. Court of Federal Claims – handles claims for money due from the U.S. including certain
taxes
U.S. Court of International Trade – hears cases involving the value, classification and tariffs
on imports
U.S. Tax Court – has jurisdiction over controversies involving income, estate and gift taxes
U.S. Court of Military Appeals – reviews all court martial proceedings
U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals – reviews all decisions of the Dep’t of Veteran Affairs

Administrative Law Judges – serve particular federal agencies and hear cases pertaining to
that agency. Many hire law clerks. Examples: EPA, DOJ, DEA, FERC and Commodity
Futures Trading Cmsn. You can look up agencies that interest you on the web or in the
Federal Yellow Book in OCP library to investigate ALJ clerkship positions.

STATE COURTS
While not all state courts hire law clerks, the appellate courts and most trial courts do. These
positions and the requisite application requirements and timelines vary widely – check the
Vermont Law School Guide to State Judicial Clerkships online and state court websites.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP APPLICATION RESOURCES

OSCAR (the Online System for Clerkship Application and Review),
https://oscar.uscourts.gov, provides information about:
- Which federal judges are hiring (and which are not)
- Clerkship application details (terms, required materials, qualifications, etc.)
- Preferred application method (online, paper, email, fax)
- General information about clerking (duties, salary, benefits of clerking)

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1 A resource for finding Federal Courts, including the states in each circuit:
http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/
OSCAR is operated by Symplicity and should be familiar to you. It is the way many, though not all, federal judges choose to receive applications. You upload your documents to create an account and select the judges to whom you want to apply. Recommenders, through their faculty assistants, can upload your letters into your account. N.B. Once your application is “finalized”, neither you nor I can modify it. Proofread and review all uploaded documents!

**ALMANAC OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**
A two-volume semi-annually updated directory of all federal judges containing biographical information, lawyer evaluations, and summaries of noteworthy opinions. In W&L Law library and online via Westlaw (database identifier: AFJ) without attorney evaluations.

**ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE, JUDICIAL SELECTION PROJECT**
Provides information about the names and numbers of judges in each Circuit and their demographic breakdowns. You can also find a particular judges ethnicity and which president appointed him or her. http://www.judicialselectionproject.org; the alliance for justice website has other valuable information, http://afj.org including federal bench vacancies.

**FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER**
Since 1967, FJC is the education and research agency on the federal courts. Contains biographical information and lets you search for judges based on multiple categories. http://fjc.gov/

**WEST LEGAL DIRECTORY OF JUDGES**
A database of court office profiles and profiles of all individual full-time judges from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia (database identifier: WLD-JUDGE).

LexisNexis and Westlaw are also useful to find news articles about and decisions written by a particular judge.

**GUIDE TO STATE JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP PROCEDURES**
Comprehensive guide to procedures for applying to state court judicial clerkships at all levels in all 50 states and some U.S. territories. Available on the OCP webpage.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS**
Provides links to state court websites; may also list law clerk vacancies under employment opportunities. www.ncsonline.org

**RECENT JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS**
The United States Dep’t of Justice’s Office of Legal Policy maintains a list of federal Court nominations, confirmed nominees and vacancies for each Congress. Background information on each nominee is also included. www.usdoj.gov/olp

**JUDICIAL YELLOW BOOK**
In addition to providing some biographical information on the judges, the Judicial Yellow Book provides information on individual judge’s chambers staff (if the judge provides it) including the name of the law clerks, their terms and the law schools they attended.