

**Vacancy Announcement
United States District Court
Western District of Missouri**



Position	Court Reporter to Hon. Megan Benton
Position Number	CR-061526
Location	Springfield, Missouri
Salary Grade/Range	CR Levels 1-5 = \$95,454-114,546, plus transcripts (Starting salary based on certifications and/or years of federal court reporting experience, see charts below)
Opening Date	September 10, 2026
Closing Date	Open Until Filled

The United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri has approximately 285 employees (judges and staff) and is a fully consolidated court which includes the District and Bankruptcy Courts and Probation and Pretrial Services Office. The Western District is divided into five divisions: Western (Kansas City), Central (Jefferson City), Southern (Springfield), Southwestern (Joplin), and the St. Joseph division. The primary office is in Kansas City with two divisional offices located in Jefferson City and Springfield.

Overview of Position

The United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri is currently accepting applications for a full-time court reporter position. This position reports directly to the Court Reporter Supervisor. Although the position is in Springfield, travel to the Kansas City and Jefferson City courthouses will be required from time to time for court proceedings as necessary.

Primary Duties

- A court reporter performs court reporting services for any judicial proceeding as may be required. The position requires the ability to record and transcribe verbatim testimony of courtroom proceedings, to read back all or any portions of the court records, to work well under pressure, and to work extended court and transcription production hours within strict time limitations.
- At the request of a party or by order of the court, the court reporter provides transcripts within the time frames and cost requirements of the Judicial Conference and is responsible for determining that billings and formats comply with the Judicial Conference requirements.
- Court reporters must adhere to the Court Reporter Management Plan of this district and maintain accurate, legible records which are subject to audit. This position involves completing record-keeping forms, documenting the information contained in reports, as well as maintaining and safeguarding records until their disposition according to the statutory requirements and Judicial Conference policy.
- Court reporters are responsible for their own office supplies, office equipment (including computer hardware and software), postage, and delivery charges.
- Additionally, all court employees are *at will*, and therefore serve at the pleasure of the court and must comply with the requirements of the Judicial Conference of the United States and *The Court Reporters' Manual* published by the Administrative Office of the United States. The court requires employees to adhere to a Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees.

Western Missouri Requirement

All newly appointed court reporters employed by this court are required to have the ability to utilize Realtime court reporting skills and equipment, in addition to skill and experience in computer-aided transcription (CAT). Current court reporters utilize Eclipse or Case CATalyst software. If incumbent does not have Realtime certification when hired, they must test for and obtain Realtime certification (Certified Realtime Reporter examination by NCRA or equivalent as defined by the United States Courts) within three years (156 weeks) from appointment date. During the three-year period, the court reporter must demonstrate they have taken the scheduled certification test required each time it is offered and provide test results to the Court.

Additional Minimum Qualifications

- The incumbent must possess a minimum of one year of prime court reporting experience in the freelance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof; and
- Must have qualified by testing for listing on the registry of professional reporters (RPR certification) of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or passed an equivalent qualifying examination.
- Equivalent Qualifying Examinations
 - The NCRA examination for listing on the registry of professional reporters (RPR) consists of a written knowledge section plus a skills section. The skills section requires the ability to record 180 words per minute for literary matter, 200 words per minute for jury charge, and 225 words per minute for testimony and transcribe the recorded material at 95% accuracy within 75 minutes.
 - Professional associations (other than the NCRA) and state license examinations may be acceptably equivalent to the NCRA testing, but the requirements for the examinations at the time of administration should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as the requirements change from time-to-time.
- The qualifications do not require that court reporters have active membership in the NCRA or another association to qualify for appointment or promotion in the federal courts. The only requirement is that the reporter have attained the credential by passing the qualification examination.

Salary Levels and Specialized Experience

Court reporter salary levels are based on hire date, years of service, and certifications as shown in the charts below. NOTE: NCRA certifications may be substituted with equivalent certification as defined by the United States Courts.

*Court reporters hired by the Judiciary **BEFORE** October 11, 2009, who want to transfer:*

Level 1 (\$95,454) – Starting salary. Must possess one year of court reporting experience in the freelance field, service in other courts, or a combination thereof; and be an NCRA Registered Professional Reporter (RPR).

Level 2 (\$100,227) – Starting salary plus 5%. Must possess ten (10) years of court reporting experience for a United States District Court, time spent serving in a United States District Court as a contract or per diem reporter may be credited toward this ten-year requirement; **OR** be an NCRA Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Level 3 (\$104,999) – Starting salary plus 10%. Must be **either** an NCRA Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR); **OR** possess ten (10) years of court reporting experience for a United States District Court **AND** be a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Level 4 (\$109,772) – Starting salary plus 15%. Must be a Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) **with either**: ten (10) years of reporting experience for a United States District Court, **or** Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Level 5 (\$114,546) – Starting salary plus 20%. Must be a Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR); **AND** have ten (10) years of reporting experience for a United States District Court; **AND** be a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Court reporters hired by the Judiciary **AFTER** October 11, 2009:

Level 1 (\$95,454) – Starting salary. Must possess one year of court reporting experience in the freelance field, service in other courts, or a combination thereof; and be an NCRA Registered Professional Reporter (RPR)

Level 2 (\$100,227) – Starting salary plus 5%. Must possess a minimum of one year of prime court reporting experience in the freelance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof; **AND** must be a NCRA Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Level 3 (\$104,999) – Starting salary plus 10%. Must possess a minimum of one year of prime court reporting experience in the freelance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof; **AND** must be a NCRA Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR). NCRA certification may be substituted with equivalent certification as defined by the United States Courts

Level 4 (\$109,772) – Starting salary plus 15%. Must possess a minimum of one year of prime court reporting experience in the freelance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof; **AND** must be a NCRA Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) or equivalent as defined by the United States Courts **AND** a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Conditions of Employment

- Applicants who are non-United States citizens must meet the judiciary requirements for federal employment (https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Employment_of_Non-citizens).
- Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position. As a condition of employment, the selected candidate must undergo an FBI background investigation. Employment will be considered provisional until the FBI background check is completed. This position is subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (direct deposit) of pay.
- Additionally, employees must adhere to all Judicial Conference regulations, must follow the policies outlined in the *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, and are bound by the ethical standards established by the Chief Judge and the [Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees](#). Successful employment with the U.S. Courts is based on acceptable performance and is an at-will employment arrangement.

Employee Benefits

The Court offers a robust benefits package to include the following:

- 11 paid holidays each calendar year
- Annual Leave Accrual
 - 13 days of paid annual leave (for each of the first three years of federal service)
 - 20 days of paid annual leave (after three years of federal service)
 - 26 days of paid annual leave (15 or more years of federal service)
- Sick Leave Accrual
 - 13 days of paid sick leave (unlimited accumulation from year-to-year)
- Up to 12 weeks Paid Parental Leave for eligible employees
- Choice of insurance coverages: [Health](#), [Dental](#), [Vision](#), and [Life](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts](#) for Healthcare and Dependent-Care reimbursement
- Federal Employees' Retirement System ([FERS](#) government pension)
- [Thrift Savings Plan](#) (tax-deferred savings plan with up to 5% employer matching contributions)
- Employee Assistance Program ([EAP](#))
- Access to National Judiciary Training programs
- Student Loan Forgiveness through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness ([PLSF](#))
- Optional [Long-Term Disability](#) insurance coverage
- Free on-site parking

Application Procedure

Qualified applicants must submit all the following to be considered:

- A cover letter.
- A detailed resume.
- Contact information for three **professional** references.
- Copies of Certifications (e.g., NCRA Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, etc.), if applicable.
- Completed [AO78 – Federal Judicial Branch Application for Employment Form](#).

Please email completed application packet in **one** single PDF document to:
kathy_popejoy@mow.uscourts.gov

Miscellaneous Information

Only qualified applicants who submit all the required documents listed above will be considered for this position. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are not notified, another applicant was selected. The court is not authorized to reimburse expenses to travel for interviews or for relocation. The Western District of Missouri is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in the workplace.

The court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you require a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process, please notify Kathy Popejoy in the Human Resources Department. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The Court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this announcement, withdraw the announcement, or fill the position at any time before the closing date, any of which may occur without prior written notice.