



Vacancy Announcement United States District Court Western District of Missouri

Position	Term Law Clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge
Duration of Appointment	Two years beginning September 7, 2027
Position Number	TLC-011626
Location	Springfield, Missouri
Salary	JSP 11-13 (\$74,678 – \$138,370) (Grade based on education and prior federal judiciary law clerk experience)
Opening Date	January 16, 2026
Application Closing Date	March 20, 2026

Court Overview

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 Court is currently seeking a Term Law Clerk for the Honorable David P. Rush, U.S. Magistrate Judge. The person holding this position will maintain an office in Springfield, Missouri. Term Law Clerks may serve for up to a four-year term subject to eligibility and at the discretion of the judge. All applicants should visit www.mow.uscourts.gov for general information about the Court.

Position Description

The judicial law clerk acts as a legal advisor, conducts research on issues of law to make recommendations to the judge, prepares memoranda and orders, drafts opinions, verifies citations, completes reports for recommendations in pending cases and drafts jury instructions. There is daily interaction with the judge, other chamber's staff, and clerk's office employees concerning legal and court-related issues. A judicial law clerk communicates with counsel regarding case management and procedural requirements, attends trials and other court proceedings to assist the judge, and performs other administrative duties as assigned.

Qualifications

To qualify for the position, one must have the following minimum requirements:

- (1) Law school graduate at the time of appointment;
- (2) Excellent research, writing, proofreading, communication skills, and knowledge of computer operations;
- (3) Exceptional organizational skills, ability to multitask, punctual, detail oriented, and willing to accept responsibility, work independently, and establish and meet deadlines; and
- (4) Good character, maturity, and have a willingness to work long hours as may be required.

Conditions of Employment

- Applicants who are non-United States citizens must meet the [Citizenship Requirements for Employment in the Judiciary](#). Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position. All application information is subject to verification.
- As a condition of employment, the selectee must undergo an FBI background check. Employment will be considered provisional until the FBI background check is completed.
- Court employees must adhere to all Judicial Conference regulations, must follow the policies outlined in the [Guide to Judicial Policy](#), and are bound by the ethical standards established by the chief judge of the court and the [Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees](#). The United States District and Bankruptcy Courts are part of the federal judiciary.
- Although positions in the federal judiciary are comparable to civil service in salary, leave accrual and benefits, this position is an Excepted Appointment and considered an “at-will” employment opportunity serving at the pleasure of the court and, as a rule, can be terminated by the court with or without cause. Successful employment with the U.S. Courts is based on acceptable performance.

Benefits

The following benefits are available for this position:

- 11 Paid Holidays each calendar year
- Insurance plans: Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Long-Term Care; and Long-Term Disability

Application Procedures

Qualified applicants must submit all the following to be considered:

- A cover letter;
- A detailed resume;
- Unofficial law school transcript;
- Three letters of reference;
- A legal writing sample unedited by anyone else; **and**
- A completed application for Judicial Branch Federal Employment – form AO78
Link to form: <https://www.uscourts.gov/forms/human-resources-forms/application-judicial-branch-federal-employment>
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Submit application materials to Kathy Popejoy in HR via email: 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 for the position. 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.