



Vacancy Announcement United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of Missouri

Position	Term Law Clerk to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge
Position Number	BKLC-012726
Duration	Two-year term beginning August 2027, ending August 2029
Location	Kansas City, Missouri
Salary	JSP 11-13 (\$75,897 - \$140,627) (Grade based on education and prior federal judiciary law clerk experience)
Opening Date	January 27, 2026
Application Closing Date	June 26, 2026 (unless Judge Fenimore fills the position sooner) NOTE: Chamber's staff may contact applicants to schedule interviews immediately after receiving applications.

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.

Available Position

Honorable Brian T. Fenimore, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, is now accepting applications to fill one term law clerk position beginning August 2027 and ending August 2029. The person holding this position will maintain an office in Kansas City, 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

Duties include extensive legal research; writing legal memoranda, orders, and opinions; completing administrative tasks; assisting with seminar materials; supervising interns; and preparing for and attending evidentiary hearings and trials, motions dockets, pretrial conferences, and status conferences.

Qualifications

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

- Clerks must possess excellent legal research and writing skills,
- Enjoy a collaborative work environment,

- Feel comfortable voicing disagreement in an appropriately professional and deferential manner,
- A member of Moot Court and/or Law Review
- Scholastic standing in law school – ranked in the top 25%
- Bankruptcy or commercial law experience are preferred but not required.
- Must be available to travel to an outer division one to two nights each month.

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 to Term Law Clerks:

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

Application Procedure

Qualified applicants **must** submit all the following documents to be considered:

- A detailed cover letter;
- A detailed resume;
- Undergraduate transcript;
- Law school grade sheet;
- Three letters of recommendation;
- A legal writing sample unedited by anyone else (please limit to 10 pages or fewer); 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>

Apply online at <https://oscar.uscourts.gov> or mail application materials to:

Judge Fenimore’s Chambers
 U.S. Bankruptcy Court – Western Missouri
 Charles Evans Whittaker Courthouse
 400 East 9th Street, Room 6552
 Kansas City, MO 64106

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 Judge Fenimore's chambers. 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.