

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 900

Washington, D.C. 20004

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement No.: 22-02

Issuing Date: January 10, 2022

Closing Date: January 24, 2022

Position: Legal Researcher to General Counsel

Court Schedule: CS-7 (equivalent GS-7) – Current pay rate is \$24.27 per hour.

The Court: The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims provides veterans with an independent judicial forum for reviewing VA administrative decisions that are adverse to the veteran's claim for service-connected disability benefits. The Court's website is at www.uscourts.cavc.gov.

The General Counsel provides legal advice to the Court's judges, the Clerk, & Court managers & staff.

The Two Student Law Clerk positions: The Student Law Clerks work directly with two attorneys- the General Counsel and the Deputy General Counsel. The Student Law Clerks also interact with other Court managers, judges, judges' law clerks and, occasionally, outside organizations.

The Student Law Clerks assist in providing legal advice to the Court, primarily by researching & writing legal memos for the General Counsel & Deputy General Counsel, some of which are then provided to judges and Court staff. The memos are written in collaboration with the GC and/or the Deputy GC.

The issues that the Student Law Clerks handle are diverse, potentially covering all aspects of Court operations. (*However, the General Counsel does not handle the veteran's disability claims being appealed to the Court.*) Typical subject areas include:

- (1) judicial ethics, including questions of recusal, conflicts of interest and outside activities of judges and law clerks, and restrictions on Court employees' political activity;
- (2) disciplinary matters concerning members of the Court's bar;
- (3) internal personnel matters, covering a range of employment law questions;
- (4) budget, appropriations, & procurement questions including outside vendor contracts;
- (5) interpreting and applying the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Dates of Employment: There are two available positions:

POSITION 1 is SUMMER ONLY: This Full-Time position begins late-May 2022; ends mid-Aug. 2022.

POSITION 2 is for SUMMER & FALL: the full-time Summer part of the position begins in late May 2022 & continues through mid-Aug. 2022. The part-time Fall semester part of the position begins in late Aug. 2022 and continues through Dec. 2022, with a work commitment of approximately 16-20 hours per week, with time off for exams, vacations, etc., as needed. **IMPORTANT: To be eligible for POSITION 2, you must commit to working 16-20 hours per week during the Fall 2022 semester.**

The Ideal Candidates will also have superior writing skill & an interest in further developing that skill.

Job applications: For the Initial Interview: a) Your resume; and, b) A cover letter indicating whether you are interested in Position 1 or Position 2. Subsequent required submission: a) Your law school transcript (an unofficial one is OK); and b) a writing sample.

Job applications will consist of a cover letter and resume. Submit your application to: Cary Sklar at csklar@uscourts.cavc.gov. **If you are selected for an interview, please bring your law school transcript (an unofficial copy is acceptable) and a writing sample.**

This appointment is made without regard to Title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service. All appointments are Excepted Service.

Note: Applicants applying for a 5- or 10-point preference must submit proof of their eligibility, along with their signed application, for the preference to be considered.

Conditions of Employment: A background security investigation will be required for all new hires. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of fingerprinting and a background security investigation with favorable adjudication. Failure to meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

Area of Consideration: DC Metro Area Law School Students

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or marital status.