

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement No.: 26-13

Issuing Date: July 13, 2026

Closing Date: Open until filled

Position: Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Scott J. Laurer
Flexible Term, Start Date in October 2026
Court Schedule: CS 11/12/13 (equivalent GS 11/12/13)

Note: Preference will be given to veterans; proof of eligibility must be submitted with application.

Summary: The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has exclusive jurisdiction over decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board). The Court reviews Board decisions appealed by claimants who believe the Board erred in its decision. The Court's review of Board decisions is based on the record before the agency and arguments of the parties, which are presented in written briefs, with oral argument generally held only in cases presenting new legal issues.

Conditions of Employment: Background security investigation is required for all new hires. Appointment is subject to successful completion of fingerprinting and background security investigation. Failure to meet these requirements will be grounds for termination. Appointment and continuing service are also subject to the applicant residing within 35 miles of the Court.

Note: Judge requires a 24-month commitment from the law clerk. This term may be extended by mutual agreement, and it can also convert to a career clerk position. Chambers is using a hybrid work schedule, combining remote and in-office work, which may be subject to change.

Who May Apply: Applicants with at least 1 year of veteran's law experience, such as experience gained through law school clinics, judicial internships, externships, or employment involving veterans' benefits law.

This appointment is excepted service, made without regard to Title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service.

Qualification Requirements: To qualify for the judicial law clerk position, a person must (1) be a law school graduate no later than date of appointment, (2) have taken or sat for the bar exam in any jurisdiction before start date, (3) have legal work experience practicing veteran's law for at least 1 year, and (4) have demonstrated at least one of the following accomplishments or proficiencies:

- Standing within the upper third of the law school class from a law school on the approved list of either the American Bar Association or the Association of American Law Schools;
- Experience on the editorial board of a law review of such a school;
- Experience working in the judiciary; or
- Proficiency in legal practice or studies that, in the opinion of the appointing judge, is the equivalent of one of the above.

Position Grade Levels: Current salary range including Washington-Baltimore-Arlington, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA Locality Pay, as of issuing date, is:

- CS 11 (\$85,447 - \$111,087)
- CS 12 (\$102,415 - \$133,142)
- CS 13 (\$121,785 - \$158,322)

Bar membership is required for appointment at the CS 12 or 13 level. One year of legal work experience is required for appointment at the CS 12 level. Two years of legal work experience is required for appointment at the CS 13 level. After successful completion of performance standards for 2 years at the CS 13 level, promotion to CS 14 level is available, subject to Court policies.

Legal Work Experience: Legal work experience for this position means progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, in legal research, legal writing, legal administration, or equivalent experience received after graduation from law school.

Instructions for Applying: Application *must include* the following material:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. Law school and (if applicable) graduate transcripts
4. Self-edited writing sample, 10 pages maximum
5. List of references with contact information
6. Completed OF 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment, available at www.uscourts.cavc.gov/documents/of306.pdf)

Submit application to Judge Laurer's Confidential Assistant, Mr. Ed McGugin, at emcgugin@uscourts.cavc.gov. Email applications in .pdf format and combined in one attachment.

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, age, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, religion, marital status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.