

Job Search Time-Line for Post-Judicial Law Clerk Positions

Congratulations on securing a clerkship! Most former clerks report that clerking was an invaluable experience, and that it helped a great deal in the search for post-clerk employment. However, most clerkships are for a one-year term, and therefore, the search for a post-clerkship position must begin almost before you start working for your judge.

The following basic timeline, broken down by employer type, is meant to guide your search for post-clerkship employment. However, individual job search timelines may vary.

Large Law Firms

July

- Take Bar Exam

August

- Research employers on naldirectory.com and martindale.com
- Apply for positions

September/October

- Follow-up with applications via email and telephone
- Interview for positions

November/December

- Assess results of job search
- If job offer has not materialized consider broadening your job search
- Research additional employers, perhaps smaller firms, and apply for additional positions
- Build contacts through networking

Medium Law Firms

July

- Take Bar Exam

August/September/October

- Research employers on martindale.com
- Prepare application materials
- Apply to employers with early deadlines
- Build contacts through networking

November/December

- Apply to employers with later deadlines
- Follow up with earlier applications

January/February/March

- Continue to research employers
- Continue networking
- Assess results of job search and send more applications as necessary

Small Law Firms

July

- Take Bar Exam

August - December

- Research employers on martindale.com
- Prepare application materials
- Build contacts through networking

January/February

- Continue to research employers
- Continue to build contacts through networking
- Apply to employers with early deadlines

March/April

- Apply to additional employers
- Follow up with earlier applications

May/June/July

- Apply to additional employers
- Follow up with earlier applications
- Assess results of job search and send more applications as necessary

Public Interest Fellowships

Before Graduation

- Develop relationships with public interest agencies
- Secure summer internship for 1L and/or 2L summers
- Begin to formulate fellowship project ideas

3L Spring

- Refine fellowship project with sponsoring agency
- Determine the fellowships to which you will apply

July

- Take Bar Exam

September/October

- Complete and submit fellowship application

Public Interest Organizations (Non-Fellowship Positions)

July

- Take Bar Exam

August - December

- Research employers on pslawnet.org
- Prepare application materials
- Build contacts through networking

January/February

- Continue to research employers

- Continue to build contacts through networking
- Apply to employers with early deadlines

March/April

- Apply to additional employers
- Follow up with earlier applications

May/June/July

- Apply to additional employers
- Follow up with earlier applications
- Assess results of job search and send more applications as necessary

Other Judicial Clerkships

Before Graduation

- Research appellate and federal court clerkships for deadlines and application requirements

July

- Take Bar Exam

August

- Apply for state appellate and federal clerkships

Federal Government

July

- Take Bar Exam

August

- Research employers for application requirements and deadlines
- Apply for positions

September/ October/November

- Follow-up with applications via email and telephone

State and Local Government

July

- Take Bar Exam

August

- Research employers for application requirements and deadlines

September

- Apply for positions at large offices such as big city prosecutor's offices or state attorney general offices

October/November

- Follow-up with applications via email and telephone

December/January

- Apply for positions with smaller state and local offices

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