



TERM LAW CLERK

Vacancy Announcement: 2026-32-USDC

POSITION:	Term Law Clerk
POSITION TYPE:	Full-time, term limited
SALARY RANGE:	<u>JSP 11/1 to JSP 13/1 - Pay Table RUS (\$74,678 – \$106,437)*</u> <i>*Starting salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Advanced in step placement may be available for current or prior federal employees based on highest previous rate rules.</i>
OPEN DATE:	August 25, 2026
CLOSING DATE:	Open until filled.
AREA OF CONSIDERATION:	Open to all qualified Individuals
LOCATION:	Grand Junction, Colorado

U.S. District Judge Gordon P. Gallagher for the District of Colorado has an opening for a term judicial law clerk (18 – 24 Months) in his chambers in Grand Junction, Colorado, to start on/around August 6, 2027. Job duties include conducting legal research, drafting orders, attending hearings, assisting with trials, and drafting jury instructions for his civil and criminal dockets. Excellent analytical and writing skills, as well as strong organizational and time management skills, are essential. As some court proceedings may be conducted in Denver and/or Durango, occasional travel will be necessary. Priority consideration will be given to applicants with prior federal clerkship or post-law schoolwork experience.

Please note that the duty station will be Grand Junction, Colorado, a small city located about 250 miles/4 hours west of Denver and approximately the same distance from Salt Lake City. Clerks are expected to be in the office in person 5 days a week with limited opportunities for remote work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for a JSP 11/1, a person must be a law school graduate (or be certified as having completed all law school studies and requirements and merely awaiting conferment of degree) from a law school of recognized standing, and have demonstrated one of the following accomplishments or proficiencies:

- (a) 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;
- (b) Experience on the editorial board of a law review of such a school;
- (c) Graduation from such a school with an LLM degree; or
- (d) Proficiency in legal studies that, in the opinion of the appointing judge, is the equivalent of one of the above.

To qualify for a JSP 12/1, a person must meet the above but also have at least one year of full-time legal work experience after graduation from law school and must be a member of the bar of a state, territorial, or federal court of general jurisdiction.

To qualify for a JSP 13/1, a person must meet the above but also have at least two years of full-time legal work experience after graduation from law school and must be a member of the bar of a state, territorial, or federal court of general jurisdiction.

Legal work experience is defined as progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, in legal research, legal administration, or equivalent experience received *after* graduation from law school. Major or substantial legal activities while on military duty may be credited on a month-for-month basis whether before or after graduation, but not to exceed one year before graduation from law school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Term law clerk appointments are limited to a total of four years, including all previous appointments held under a federal term law clerk capacity. Term law clerks are subject to social security deductions and are eligible for health, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. Term law clerks are not eligible to participate in the federal employee's retirement system (FERS) or the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Based on the Judge's discretion, term law clerks may or may not be placed on the Leave Act. Please visit [Benefits Overview](#) to view all federal judiciary employee benefits.

All employees must adhere to the judiciary's [Code of Conduct](#). In addition, this position is subject to mandatory fund transfer (EFT) participation, adherence to 8 U.S.C. § 1324b(a)(3)(B) regarding hiring of lawful permanent residents, and appointment is provisional pending a favorable FBI fingerprint and/or background check. Employees of the United States Courts are not included in the government's Civil Service classification and are considered "at will" employees. The Court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this vacancy announcement, or to withdraw the announcement, any of which may occur without prior written or other notice.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a complete application package online through [OSCAR](#).

1. Cover letter;
2. Resume;
3. Writing sample (consisting of your own un-edited work);
4. Law school transcript;
5. 3 letters of recommendation and contact information for 3 references.

Only qualified applicants will be considered for an interview for this position. Interviews will be conducted by video and will be scheduled on a rolling basis as applications are reviewed. Applicants who do not submit all required materials, as stated in the How to Apply section of the Vacancy Announcement, will not be considered.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER