

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

Vacancy Announcement

Position: Judicial Law Clerk (Term)

Announcement No. 26-01

Position Type: Full-Time, Regular

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Opening Date: January 27, 2026

Closing Date: Open until filled

Position Start Date: August 2026

Salary Range: \$78,098 - \$144,705 (JSP 11-JSP 13)

(Starting salary is based on 2026 pay tables and is commensurate with qualifications, experience, and salary history in accordance with U.S. Court Guidelines)

POSITION SUMMARY:

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin is accepting applications for the position of Judicial Law Clerk (Term) to Bankruptcy Judge Rachel Blise. This position will start mid-August 2026. Duties include researching a variety of legal issues, drafting memoranda and opinions, reviewing orders, and handling miscellaneous day-to-day clerical assignments.

The term will expire in August 2027.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant must be a law school graduate (or be certified as having completed all law school studies and requirements and merely awaiting conferment of a law degree) from an accredited law school, and have one or more of the following attributes:

- Standing within the upper third of candidate's 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 or graduation from such a school with an LLM degree; or
- Proficiency in legal studies that, in the opinion of the appointing judge, is the equivalent of one of the above. Some examples of criteria that are considered to be acceptable as equivalent include, but are not limited to:
 - Publication of a noteworthy article in a law school publication or other scholarly publication;
 - Special high-level honors for academic excellence in law school, such as election to the Order of the Coif;
 - Winning of a moot court competition or membership on a moot court team that represents the law school in competition with other law schools;
 - Participation in the legal aid or other law school clinical program sanctioned by the law school;* or
 - Summer experience as a law clerk to a state or local judge or law clerk experience on a continuing basis in a private firm while attending school.*

(*Participation and experience could not have been for academic credit.)

Applicants must be highly skilled in legal research and writing, and must be able to use Westlaw, Lexis, and Microsoft Office. Applicants must be able to quickly process and resolve complex issues. Excellent verbal, written, interpersonal and time management skills, maturity, judgment, and discretion are required. **It is not required that applicants have taken a bankruptcy course in law school or have experience in the bankruptcy field.**

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

The salary will be established by applying the Judicial Salary Plan (JSP) of the United States Courts to the successful applicant's qualifications.

To qualify for JSP grade 12, one year of legal work experience following law school graduation is required. To qualify for JSP grade 13, two years of legal work experience following law school graduation is required. Except for grade 11, the applicant must be a member of the bar of a state, territory, or federal court of general jurisdiction.

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

Although not included in the federal government's Civil Service classification, the term clerk enjoys substantially the same benefits as other federal government employees. The available benefits package includes eleven paid holidays per year, health insurance, life insurance, long-term care insurance, dental and vision insurance, and flexible spending accounts. Employees of the United States Courts are hired as excepted service, "at will" employees. Employees are required to participate in Electronic Funds Transfer for receipt of net pay.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS:

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court is a part of the judicial branch of the United States Government.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, or to withdraw the job announcement, or to fill the position sooner than the closing date, if a closing date is shown, any of which actions may occur without any prior written or other notice.

Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position and only applicants selected for an interview will be notified. Participation in the interview process will be at the applicant's own expense and relocation expenses will not be provided.

Applicants must be United States citizens or eligible to work in the United States.

Applicants are required to answer questions 18-20 on the AO-78, Federal Judicial Branch Application for Employment before an offer of employment will be made.

The successful candidate is subject to a background check or investigation, which may include an FBI fingerprint check.

Employees are required to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees](#).

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Qualified applicants must apply through Online System for Clerkship Application and Review (OSCAR) <https://oscar.uscourts.gov> and submit the following required documents: (1) cover letter that includes information about why the applicant wants to clerk in the bankruptcy court and any ties to the Milwaukee area; (2) résumé with detailed work history; (3) two writing samples (one high-quality writing sample is acceptable); (4) two letters of recommendation; and (5) law school transcripts.