



# United States Bankruptcy Court District of Montana

## Vacancy Announcement

01J:2026

<b>Position Title:</b>	Career Law Clerk to Bankruptcy Judge
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Missoula, Montana
<b>Announcement Date:</b>	May 7, 2026
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Open until Filled (First application review is scheduled for May 29, 2026)
<b>Starting Grade</b>	JSP 11/1 to JSP 14
<b>Salary:</b>	\$74,678 - \$163,514*

*\*Starting salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Advanced step placement may be available for current or prior federal employees based on highest previous rate rules.*

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court, for the District of Montana has an opening for a Career Law Clerk. The person holding this position will maintain an office in Missoula, Montana. This position is expected to commence on September 15, 2026.<sup>1</sup> While Judge Hursh is seeking a Career Law Clerk, he will consider applicants seeking a Term Law Clerk position. Term Law Clerks may serve for up to a four-year term subject to eligibility and at the discretion of the judge.

### **Position Description:**

Judicial law clerks manage dockets, review pleadings, research and write extensively, attend and assist with the preparation for hearings, trials, settlement conferences and other court proceedings, act as advisors to the Judge on pending litigation, and assist with administration of chambers. Although Judge Hursh maintains chambers in both Missoula and Butte, this is a full-time position based in Missoula.

Good character, sound judgment, efficient research, analysis and writing, along with a service-oriented and collaborative work ethic are essential and required.

### **Qualifications:**

Applicants must show a demonstrated commitment to sustained excellence and be law school graduates and members of a bar. Prior clerkship and/or bankruptcy experience in either private or public practice are also

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<sup>1</sup> Commencement date is flexible.

preferred, as is participation on law review, academic standing in the upper twenty percent of the class, and participation in moot court or mock trial.

**Additional Information:**

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. Career law clerks are eligible for all Federal Judiciary 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 an 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.

**Information for Applicants:**

To be considered for this position, applicants must submit the following information:

- 1) Cover letter, summarizing your qualifications, skills, and reasons for interest in the position;
- 2) Current resume;
- 3) Two writing samples which reflect no more than de minimis editing by a third party;
- 4) Names and contact information for three (3) professional references;
- 5) Form AO-78, Application for Judicial Branch Employment (available at <https://www.uscourts.gov/forms-rules/forms/application-judicial-branch-federal-employment>. Note: the last page of the AO-78 requires a conventional signature. It cannot be an electronic signature.

Applications will not be considered complete until all the items listed above have been received; **incomplete applications will not be considered.**

**Applications should be submitted via the Online Application Portal:**

<https://opportunities.ilnb.uscourts.gov/Employment/appform.cfm?ref=dr5w2tay&pos=01J:2026>

(If you have difficulty with the link, please copy and paste into your browser)

Please contact the Human Resource Department if you require alternative application submission options at 406-542-7113 or 406-829-7124.

The Court will provide acknowledgement of received applications via an immediate response in the application portal. Due to the expected volume of applications further communication will be limited to those applicants chosen for additional screening and/or interviews.

*The United States Bankruptcy Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*