



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT District of New Mexico

Honorable Kenneth J. Gonzales, Chief Judge
Erik Paltrow, Clerk of Court

Office of the Clerk

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NOTICE OF JOB OPPORTUNITY

Vacancy Announcement #: 26-SF/JSP-1

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: May 18, 2026

CLOSING DATE: June 30, 2026
Anticipated start date October 1, 2027

POSITION: Term Law Clerks, Full-time (2 positions)

STARTING LEVEL/SALARY: JSP 11/1 to 13/1
\$75,489 to \$107,592 Annual (2026 pay tables)
Depending on Qualifications

LOCATION: Santa Fe, New Mexico

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Honorable Kenneth J. Gonzales, Chief U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, is seeking two (2) law clerks to join his chambers in Fall 2027. The Law Clerks will support the judge by conducting legal research; drafting legal documents such as orders, opinions, and minutes; providing case management and court calendar monitoring; and performing other duties as assigned.

This announcement is for two Full-time (40 hours/week, 80 hours/biweekly pay period) Term Law Clerk positions, each lasting one year with a possible extension up to two years. Anticipated start date of **October 1, 2027**; exact date is negotiable.

Successful candidates should have the ability to work onsite in the judge's chambers.

Law clerks must comply with the requirements of the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts and the *Guide to Judiciary Policy*.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the position of a Law Clerk on the staff of a federal judge, 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 one or more of the following attributes:

- ◆ Excellent standing within 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;
- ◆ Graduation from such a school with an LLM degree; or
- ◆ Demonstrated proficiency in legal studies, which in the opinion of the Court, is the equivalent of one of the above.

To qualify for appointment to a JSP 12 or above, an individual must 1) be a member in good standing of the bar of a state, territory, or Federal Court of general jurisdiction, and 2) have legal work experience after graduation from law school. Credit given for prior government service.

OTHER EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS

Progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, in legal research, legal administration, or equivalent experience received after graduation from law school is a plus. Previous federal law clerk experience or private sector litigation experience is a plus. Strong legal research and writing skills are a must. Organizational skills, Internet research skills, and skills with Westlaw and MS Word are essential.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Successful candidate should possess good judgment and good analytical skills; demonstrate tact, initiative, and ability to work independently; possess a strong work ethic; and maintain a professional appearance and demeanor at all times. Candidate must be able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- ◆ Employees must be United States citizens or [eligible to work for the United States government](#).
- ◆ Employees of the United States District Court are Excepted Service appointments; Excepted Service appointments are “at will” and can be terminated with or without cause by the court.
- ◆ Employees are required to adhere to a Code of Ethics and Conduct.
- ◆ Selectees are subject to an FBI fingerprint check or investigation and may be subject to periodic updates. An individual may be hired provisionally pending successful completion of the necessary records checks.
- ◆ Travel expenses for an interview will not be reimbursed.
- ◆ The court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities.
- ◆ This position is subject to EFT (direct deposit of salary earnings).

BENEFITS

A generous benefits package is available to full-time excepted employees, including

- ◆ A minimum of 11 paid holidays
- ◆ Optional participation in Federal Employees Health Benefits plans, including dental and vision insurance; Federal Employees Group Life Insurance; Flexible Benefits Program
- ◆ Retirement benefits*: FERS and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
* *Only if transferring from a previously covered position without a break in service.*
- ◆ Credit for prior government service

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Qualified applicants must email a **cover letter with three references, current résumé, two writing samples** and an **AO-78** * (*Federal Judicial Branch Application for Employment*) to Theresa_Hall@nmd.uscourts.gov.

*The AO-78 can be downloaded at <https://www.nmd.uscourts.gov/employment>.

PLEASE USE "2027 TERM LAW CLERK – CHIEF JUDGE GONZALES" IN THE SUBJECT LINE

Applications **must** be submitted in **ONE PDF** document.

Illegible or incomplete applications may result in loss of consideration for the position. ZIP files and links to file sharing services (DropBox, OneDrive, etc.) will not be accepted. PDF size is limited to 10 MB. Documents that cannot be downloaded by the court cannot be considered.

Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position and are encouraged to apply. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Initial interviews may be conducted remotely via videoconference; travel for any in-person interviews will be at applicant's expense. The U.S. District Court reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to applicants. If a subsequent vacancy of the same position becomes available within a reasonable time of the original announcement, the court may select a candidate from the original qualified applicant pool.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER