

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING JUDGES

- ▶ [*OSCAR \(Online System for Clerkship Application and Review\)*](#). OSCAR is a single, centralized resource for federal clerkship information. It includes a searchable database of federal law clerk hiring information, including the length of the clerkship term, the application period, the preferred method of application, and the required application materials. Judges can also post that their positions are filled or indicate that they are not hiring clerks. There is also general information about clerkship duties, salary, and benefits under the "OSCAR Resources" section at the bottom of the homepage. In addition, your OSCAR account allows you to save your searches, receive email updates, and apply to participating judges online.

Remember that this is a voluntary system, and some judges may choose not to participate. Over three-quarters of the judges have created accounts and more join each year. If a judge has no information listed anywhere in the system, you may call the chambers directly. Be sure to explain that you looked for the clerkship information on OSCAR first and called because you found none. Additionally, if a judge who particularly interests you has listed that there are no positions or has filled them, without explicitly indicating plans to hire for an upcoming term, you may wish to investigate further into whether that judge has only career clerks or has any plans to hire.

- ▶ [*Leadership Connect*](#). This database contains biographical profiles and contact information for more than 3,500 federal and state judges, including education and previous experience. Staff information, when provided by chambers, includes the names of law clerks and the law schools they attended. Searches can be conducted on biographical data (e.g., law school attended) as well as current job organization information. Online subscriptions are available; many law libraries subscribe.
- ▶ [*Almanac of the Federal Judiciary*](#). The *Almanac* includes biographical data, descriptions of noteworthy rulings, and anonymous lawyers' evaluations. It is available online as part of WoltersKluwer's Cheetah[®], to which many law libraries subscribe. (This online version also includes Senate Biographical Questionnaires and Financial Disclosure Reports for federal judges.) The *Almanac* is also in Westlaw[®] (minus the biographical questionnaires and financial disclosure reports).
- ▶ [*Federal Judicial Center*](#). You can find biographical information on all past and present federal judges, court histories, educational materials, and links to other legal resources. Select "History of the Federal Judiciary" and then "Judges," and you will see a link to the Biographical Directory of Article III Federal Judges, where you can search for individual judges by name, or use the Advanced Search feature to create more customized lists based on a variety of criteria. In addition, you can select the "Diversity on the Bench" link to see lists of judges based on gender or ethnicity.
- ▶ [*Federal Judiciary*](#). On this website, there is information about and links to federal courts. Under "Judges & Judgeships," you can look for nominations, confirmations, and other status changes. The "Statistics & Reports" section includes information about caseloads in different courts, broken down generally by civil and criminal.
- ▶ [*Senate Nominations*](#). You can find the most up-to-date listings of recent nominations and confirmations, judicial and others.
- ▶ [*Senate Judiciary Committee*](#). The "Nominations" section includes information about judicial nominees, including their detailed questionnaire, as well as hearing dates, and votes.
- ▶ [*USDOJ Office of Legal Policy*](#). The OLP site provides tables and statistics on nominations, as well as background information on judicial nominees.
- ▶ [*National Center for State Courts*](#). This website links to numerous state and international court sites.

- ▶ [*The Guide to State Judicial Clerkship Procedures*](#). Produced by the Vermont Law School Career Services Office, this *Guide* provides information on clerkship opportunities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Please see the Vermont Law School website for information about subscriptions.
- ▶ [*LEXIS[®]-NEXIS[®]*](#) and [*WESTLAW[®]*](#). Reading a judge's opinions and news articles can give you insight into the judge's thinking and can provide valuable background for the interview. Both sites also have features to search caseloads and dockets.