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 "Resources" tab. 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. Approximately two-thirds 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.

► **Judicial Yellow Book.** This is the online version of the *Judicial Yellow Book*. It 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. Online subscriptions are available.

► **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) in the Directories section.

► **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. Lexis also has Courtlink, a new feature for researching the caseload of the circuit and district courts, several state courts, and individual district court judges. The Westlaw Profiler (Attorneys & Judges) also reports on judges’ caseloads and reversals.