



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANCY NUMBER: **PSLC 26-13E**
POSITION TITLE: Pro Se Law Clerk (*multiple positions may be filled*)
LOCATION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (*the Court will consider individuals interested in teleworking*)
SALARY RANGE: JSP 14 (*based on qualifications, experience, and/or current grade; dollar amount based on duty station*)
OPENING DATE: September 24, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Open until filled. Preference given to applications received by October 9, 2026.

POSITION OVERVIEW: The Eastern District of Pennsylvania is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Pro Se Law Clerk position. Pro se cases comprise approximately 23% of the Court's civil docket. Generally, the Court's Pro Se Law Clerks' work focuses on managing that portion of the docket in a variety of federal matters including civil rights, employment discrimination, consumer credit and other cases.

Duties of the Pro Se Law Clerks include, but are not limited to, making recommendations to district judges on civil cases filed by pro se litigants, analyzing statutes and legal issues in prisoner civil rights cases and other pro se cases, preparing draft orders and opinions for use in pro se cases, and providing general guidance and advice to judges, chambers staff, and the clerk's office staff in pro se cases. The Pro Se Law Clerks also make recommendations to district judges on in forma pauperis motions. The Pro Se Law Clerks keep abreast of changes in the law to assist the Court in adjusting to new legislation or case law in the pro se area and evaluate present procedures to determine new innovations for increasing the Court's effectiveness in handling pro se cases. The successful candidate must exhibit the highest standards of excellence and integrity, and display to all persons a courteous, professional, and cooperative attitude.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Law school graduate from a law school of recognized standing **and** one of the following accomplishments or proficiencies:
 - Standing within the upper third of the 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;
- Graduation from such a school with a LLM degree; or
- Proficiency in legal studies that, in the opinion of the Board of Judges, is the equivalent of one of the above.
- Bar membership in a state or territory
- At least three years of legal work experience (progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, legal research, legal administration, or equivalent experience after graduation from law school)
- Excellent research, writing, and analytical skills
- Proficient in computer assisted research and Microsoft Office
- Ability to work both collaboratively and independently, as well as efficiently and effectively, in a high-volume environment
- High ethical standards and a positive work attitude

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Prior state or federal clerkship, or experience working in state or federal courts
- Prior work experience involving employment litigation, prisoner civil rights litigation, or pro se litigation
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to manage priorities with limited supervision
- Proficiency in Excel

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT: Employees of the Court are excepted service appointments, considered “at-will,” and can be terminated with or without cause. All judiciary employees are required to adhere to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) for payroll deposit is required. The final candidate will be subject to a background check, which includes fingerprinting. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BENEFITS: Employees of the Court are entitled to federal benefits including health insurance, vision and dental insurance, life insurance, long-term care insurance, flexible spending accounts, retirement benefits, participation in Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401K plan), paid federal holidays, and paid annual and sick leave.

HOW TO APPLY: Qualified applicants must submit the following: (1) a cover letter; (2) a resume; (3) a brief writing sample not to exceed ten pages; (4) a law school transcript; and (5) a list of at least three references, with current contact information.

Completed applications in a **single** pdf may be emailed to Human Resources at:

paed_apply@paed.uscourts.gov

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Expenses associated with interviews or relocation will not be reimbursed. Due to the volume of applications anticipated, the court will only communicate with those applicants who will be interviewed. Do not contact the Court to inquire about this position. Applicants scheduled to interview should advise the Human Resources staff if any accommodation will be necessary. The Court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, to withdraw the announcement, or to fill the position sooner than the closing date, if a closing date is provided, any of which may occur without prior written notice or other notice.