

**UNITED STATES COURTS  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
POSITION RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Position Title:	<b>STAFF ATTORNEY</b>
Duty Station:	New Orleans, Louisiana
Salary Range:	\$57,982 - \$82,642 (depending upon experience)
Opening Date:	February 24, 2014
Closing Date:	Open until filled
Anticipated Start Date:	April 7, 2014

The Staff Attorneys' Office for the Fifth Circuit is accepting applications for the position of Staff Attorney. To apply, please submit a letter of application, resume, law school transcript and a self-edited writing sample in confidence to:

Susan E. Buckel,  
Staff Attorneys' Office  
U.S. Courts, Fifth Judicial Circuit  
600 South Maestri Place  
New Orleans, LA 70130

The writing sample should reflect only the applicant's writing and analytical skills, and the applicant should be prepared to discuss it if called for an interview. The writing sample should not exceed 15 pages. Law review articles are strongly discouraged.

Applicants may be requested to complete an on-site writing sample during the interview.

**Position Overview**

Staff attorneys work in a highly collegial environment. The position provides a unique opportunity to become acquainted with many areas of federal law.

**Representative Duties**

The Staff Attorneys' Office primarily screens direct criminal appeals, prisoner cases, and immigration cases. Staff attorneys write memoranda to the Court and draft opinions and orders. The work of staff attorneys is analogous to that of personal law clerks, except that the staff attorneys work for the Court as a whole, rather than for individual judges. Other duties as assigned.

## **Qualifications**

- Undergraduate degree
- Law degree
- Excellent research, analytical, and writing skills
- Law review or equivalent legal research experience

## **Conditions of Employment**

U.S. citizenship required, or must meet requirements under current law. Positions with the U.S. Courts are excepted service appointments, or “*at will*.” The initial appointment is provisional and contingent upon satisfactory completion of a background investigation. Direct deposit of pay required.

## **Benefits**

Although not civil service employees, federal court employees share in most of the federal fringe benefit programs, including paid leave, holidays, health insurance, life insurance, federal retirement, long-term care insurance, vision and dental insurance, and the Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401K plan).

## **Fifth Circuit Profile**

The Fifth Circuit is composed of the States of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi and represents the second largest circuit (both in case filings and authorized personnel) in the federal court system.

The Court of Appeals, headquartered in New Orleans, has 14 active judges and 9 senior judges. Nine judicial districts comprise the Fifth Circuit and include active district judges, senior district judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges.

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, withdraw the job announcement, fill the position(s) sooner than the closing date, or to extend the closing date, any of which actions may occur without any prior written or other notice.

*The Fifth Circuit is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Funding is not available to support interviewee travel.*