PAST LAW CLERKS

“Serving as a law clerk for the Texas Supreme Court gives you unparalleled insight into the inner workings and decisions of our state’s highest civil court. You get to work under the wings of some of our state’s all-time greatest jurists and public servants, and you will often find yourself a witness to history. The experience has inspired (and prepared) many former clerks, like me, to answer the public-service calling ourselves.”

Justice Bob Pemberton, 3rd Court of Appeals-Austin
Harvard; law clerk, 1992-1993

“By working as a law clerk with the Supreme Court of Texas I have had the opportunity to be a part of every facet of the judicial process — from the time a petition is submitted to the Court to the time an opinion is issued to the public. My time with the Court has been a great learning experience and has prepared me well as I continue with my legal career.”

Tamara Stiner Toomer, McGuireWoods LLP, Houston
Virginia; law clerk, 2003-2004

“Clerking was an incredible opportunity to learn and gain invaluable insight into the Court’s decision-making process by observing how the justices analyzed and debated challenging and complex legal issues during conference. Law clerks have unique exposure to a broad variety of subjects over the course of the year, providing a firm base upon which to build their legal careers.”

Jennifer Wu, Baker Botts L.L.P., Austin
Pennsylvania; law clerk, 2012-2013

“By reading and sorting through the briefs that came to the Court, during conferences with the judge and through discussions with my colleagues in other offices, I began to understand what distinguishes a great from an adequate appellate argument. The experience helped me become a more effective advocate as a staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and I continue to draw on the experience today in my role as law professor.”

Leticia Saucedo, law professor, UC-Davis
Harvard; law clerk, 1996-1997
YOUR INVITATION FOR AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.

The Supreme Court of Texas is accepting applications for law clerk positions. Each justice hires two law clerks for a one-year term that begins in mid-September. Applications are open to all students who will have graduated by the beginning of the law clerkship as well as to licensed attorneys. Strong preference is given to candidates with outstanding academic records and demonstrated writing ability.

Each law clerk assists his or her judge with legal research, studying petitions for review, preparation for oral argument, and researching and drafting opinions. The Supreme Court of Texas has discretionary review and hears civil cases only. **Almost exclusively among appellate courts, the Court permits law clerks to sit in conference during its deliberations.**

Applicants must submit a separate application (cover letter, résumé, unofficial law-school transcript, writing sample and two letters of recommendation) to each justice to whom he or she wishes to apply. Letters of recommendation may be sent separately. A State of Texas employment application is not required.

Chief Justice Hecht, and Justices Green, Johnson, Boyd and Brown prefer electronic applications. To apply to those justices, send an email containing your application materials in separate PDF attachments to HechtApps@txcourts.gov; GreenApps@txcourts.gov; JohnsonApps@txcourts.gov; BoydApps@txcourts.gov; and BrownApps@txcourts.gov. The email subject line should contain your name, “Law Clerk Application” and the year for which you are applying. Justices Willett, Guzman, Lehrmann and Devine prefer paper applications. Those should be mailed to each justice at Supreme Court of Texas, P.O. Box 12248, Austin, Texas 78711.

No application deadline exists. Each position remains open until it is filled. No applicant will be refused employment because of race, color, ethnic background, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age or any similar consideration. The annual salary for a law clerk is approximately $51,600.

Direct questions to Martha Newton at (512) 463-1353 or martha.newton@txcourts.gov. The Court does not comment on an application’s status.