

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT



POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: CAFC-18-06

OPEN: June 27, 2018
CLOSE: Open Until Filled

POSITION TITLE, GRADE AND SALARY: Technical Assistant
CL-30/31 (\$91,664-\$164,200)
Salary determined by qualifications and experience

STATUS: Two Year Appointment (Extension or conversion to permanent position possible)

LOCATION OF POSITION: United States Court of Appeals
for the Federal Circuit
717 Madison Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20439

About the Court

The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit was established under Article III of the Constitution on October 1, 1982. The court was formed by the merger of the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals and the appellate division of the United States Court of Claims. The court is located in the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building on historic Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.

The Federal Circuit is unique among the thirteen Circuit Courts of Appeal. It has nationwide jurisdiction in a variety of subject areas, including international trade, government contracts, patents, trademarks, certain money claims against the United States government, federal personnel, veterans' benefits, and public safety officers' benefits claims. Appeals to the court come from all federal district courts, the United States Court of Federal Claims, the United States Court of International Trade, and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The court also takes appeals of certain administrative agencies' decisions, including, inter alia, the United States Merit Systems Protection Board, the Boards of Contract Appeals, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, the United States International Trade Commission, the Office of Compliance the Government Accountability Office Personnel Appeals Board, and the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Position Overview

The position is located in the Office of General Counsel (OGC), which includes the Office of the Senior Technical Assistant (STA) and the Office of the Senior Staff Attorney (SSA). OGC uses the

scientific and legal backgrounds of its attorneys to help the court deal with technical issues, as well as with patent and other legal and procedural issues in which the court is involved in its variety of jurisdictional areas. Because the Offices of STA and SSA are combined within OGC, the Technical Assistant position includes the duties of both a Technical Assistant and a Staff Attorney.

Responsibilities of the Technical Assistant include, but are not limited to:

Review motions and petitions for writs of mandamus and prepare draft orders. Present draft orders resolving motions and mandamus petitions to judges and explain the proposed recommendations.

Review newly docketed appeals and petitions and determine relatedness of matters before the court. Make recommendations concerning whether certain cases should proceed together.

Answer questions from chambers and court staff concerning court procedures, jurisdiction, etc.

Perform legal research and prepare written comments for consideration by judges concerning draft precedential opinions.

Review draft precedential opinions for conflict and confusion with the law of the circuit at the request of a judge.

Assist judges and law clerks on legal and scientific/technical issues in particular cases before the court.

Draft memoranda advising the court on issues when requested.

Assist the Chief Judge and other court judges in performing research and special projects. Communicate findings to judges orally and in writing.

Perform other duties as requested by the STA and SSA.

Required Education and Experience

The successful candidate must be a law school graduate and member of the bar of a state, territorial or federal court of general jurisdiction. In addition, an undergraduate degree in science or engineering is required.

CL 30

A minimum of 3 years of progressively responsible work experience as a lawyer involving patent law (for a court, law firm, federal government agency, etc.). The overall experience must also include a minimum of 1 year of progressively responsible and substantial experience at the CL-29 or equivalent grade level.

CL 31

A minimum of 4 years of progressively responsible work experience as a lawyer involving patent law (for a court, law firm, federal government agency, etc.). The overall experience must also include a minimum of 1 year of progressively responsible and substantial experience at the CL-30 or equivalent grade level.

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal candidate should be an attorney interested in all areas of the court's jurisdiction and federal appellate practice; have a general knowledge of United States Patent and Trade Office (PTO) practice and patent prosecution, as well as familiarity with litigation in federal courts, including knowledge of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and of Evidence; have the ability to conduct legal research with all available sources and provide proposed solutions based on that research; and, be skilled in the oral and written presentation of legal and scientific/technical matters.

Application Process and Information

To be considered application packages must include ALL of the following:

1. Cover letter wherein the applicant describes the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience that would make her/him well qualified to fill this position
2. Resume outlining educational background, employment history, and other relevant information
3. Writing sample, limited to 10 pages, that does not consist of a law review or other work substantially edited by others

Complete application packages containing the items above may be sent by email to hr@cafc.uscourts.gov.

Other Information

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted and must travel at their own expense; except that reimbursement for travel may be available during the final stages of the interview process. Reimbursement for relocation is not available.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this announcement, commence interviews immediately, withdraw the announcement, or fill the position at any time, any of which actions may occur without notice.

Employees of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit are excepted service appointments. Federal government civil service classifications or regulations do not apply. All offers of employment are provisional pending successful completion of a background check or investigation and a favorable employment suitability determination. This position is subject to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for payroll deposit.

Must be a U. S. citizen or eligible to work in the United States. Non-citizens may be interviewed and considered for employment, but employment offers will only be made to individuals who qualify under one of the exceptions in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b(a)(3)(B). Under 8 U.S.C. § 1324b(a)(3)(B), a lawful permanent resident seeking citizenship may not apply for citizenship until he or she has been a permanent resident for at least five years (three years if seeking naturalization as a spouse of a citizen), at which point he or she must apply for citizenship within six months of becoming eligible, and must complete the process within two years of applying (unless there is a delay caused by the processors of the application). Non-citizens who have not been permanent residents for five years will be required to execute an affidavit that they intend to apply for citizenship when they become eligible to do so.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.