

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are there any summer clerkship positions available with the courts?

A. No, the courts do not offer summer clerkship positions.

Q. I'm in my third year of law school and did not apply for a clerkship last year. Are there any positions available for 2012-2013?

A. The clerkship positions for 2012-2013 have been filled. However, a student in third year of law school may apply for a clerkship position for the 2013-2014 term, provided he/she will not be have been called to the bar in any jurisdiction prior to commencing a clerkship.

Q. I'm in my third year of law school and I was interviewed by the Supreme Court Law Clerks Committee last year, but was not hired. Can I re-apply?

A. If you have already been interviewed by a panel of judges of one court, you cannot be re-interviewed by judges of the same court. You can re-apply for consideration by the other court. For example, if you were interviewed last year by the Law Clerks Committee of the Supreme Court, you cannot re-apply for a clerkship with the Supreme Court, but you can apply for a clerkship with the Court of Appeal.

Q. I'm applying for a clerkship; do I need to have everything in my Application Package by the application deadline of January 20, 2012?

A. Your cover letter, CV, transcripts (if available) and course lists must be sent in one package. Letters of reference are to be sent separately by the referees directly to the Judicial Law Clerk Program. If official transcripts are not available, send unofficial transcripts and provide official copies as soon as possible.

Q. Should I include a writing sample in my application?

A. We do not require writing samples and writing samples should not be submitted.

Q. My marks from my first term of second year law school may not be available by the deadline. What should I do?

A. As soon as your marks are available, please send them electronically to: judiciallawclerkprogram@courts.gov.bc.ca or by fax (604-660-1723) to the attention of the Judicial Law Clerk Program.

Q. Do I have to provide official transcripts?

Frequently Asked Questions

We will accept an unofficial version of your transcripts (e.g., a printout from your online university account) in your Application Package. If you are short listed for an interview with the Court of Appeal Law Clerks' Committee or the Supreme Court Law Clerks' Committee, you must provide a copy of your official law school and undergraduate transcripts at least one week in advance of your interview.

A. *Do both of my reference letters need to be from law professors?*

At least one of your reference letters must be from a law professor who can comment on your legal research, writing and analytical skills. Law-related references (e.g., a lawyer for whom you have worked in a law related capacity) are also acceptable. Letters of reference from sitting judges in BC courts will not be accepted.

Q. *When and where do interviews take place?*

A. The first interviews are conducted by the courts' Law Officers and will take place during the period from January 30 to February 17th, 2012. These interviews last about half an hour. Applicants who are in Vancouver or Victoria will be interviewed in person at the Vancouver Law Courts or the University of Victoria Law School. Applicants who are not in either of these locations will be interviewed by telephone.

Applicants who are shortlisted for a second interview will be interviewed by a panel of judges who are members of either the Court of Appeal Law Clerks Committee or the Supreme Court Law Clerks Committee. These interviews last about 20 minutes, and will take place in Vancouver during the period March 5 – 9, 2012. Candidates are interviewed in person.

Q. *Do you pay interview travel expenses?*

A. No, the courts do not pay interview travel expenses. Further, the courts do not pay for moving expenses or PLTC fees for law clerks.

Q. *What types of questions are asked at the interviews?*

A. The first interview with the Law Officers is quite structured. The questions are designed to allow the Law Officers to assess your general suitability for the role of a law clerk and the work it entails. Applicants are not asked substantive legal questions. Judges' interviews are less structured and may cover some substantive legal issues.

Q. *If I am not selected for one court, will I be considered by the other court?*

A. No. Although not required to do so, an applicant may state whether he/she prefers to clerk for the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court. When the Law

Frequently Asked Questions

Officers prepare the shortlist of candidates for second interviews, applicants are often streamed to one court or the other based on the preference stated, or if no preference is stated, as the Law Officers determine. An applicant who is shortlisted for an interview with the judges' committee of the Court of Appeal will compete for a clerkship with that court and will not be considered for a position with the Supreme Court. Likewise, a candidate who is shortlisted for an interview with the judges' committee of the Supreme Court will compete for a clerkship with that court and will not be considered for a position with the Court of Appeal.

Q. *How does clerking affect the timing of my articles?*

A. All clerkships commence in September. The term of Supreme Court clerkships is 12 months. The term of Court of Appeal clerkships is 10, 11 or 12 months as set by the Court of Appeal's Law Clerks Committee at the time the clerks are hired. You should contact the law society in the jurisdiction where you intend to article to determine the effect of a clerkship on the timing of your articles, and your call and admission to the bar.

Q. *Are there specific law school courses should take or activities I should participate in to prepare for a clerkship?*

A. There are no "required" courses for law clerks. However, given the nature of the work that law clerks do, it is highly recommended that law clerks have a good grounding in "black letter" courses including evidence, civil and criminal procedure, administrative law, trusts, family law and remedies. Advanced legal research courses, or other courses and activities that will hone an applicant's research and writing skills are also recommended.

Q. *Whom can I contact for more information?*

A. If you have any other questions, please contact the Judicial Law Clerk Program by email: judiciallawclerkprogram@courts.gov.bc.ca