



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
Your Practice. Our Purpose.®

Rural Clerkship Program Student Information

The State Bar's Rural Clerkship Program connects students with rural employers offering a limited-term, full-time, paid summer employment opportunity in Wisconsin.

The goal of this program is to expose students to the benefits of practicing law in rural Wisconsin.

Students (1L and 2L) from Wisconsin and Minnesota law schools who are in good standing and interested in rural practice are eligible for the program.

Student clerks gain practical legal experience, and participating employers obtain valuable legal support. Employment typically lasts eight weeks, starting after the end of the spring semester.

How can you apply?

Eligible students must submit an official Rural Clerkship Application with requested documentation by January 8. Please send your information to kburns@wisbar.org.

What are the basic requirements of a clerkship?

Understanding an employer's expectation is very important. At a minimum, you are expected to fulfill the full term of your clerkship. Subject to the employer's needs, you can expect your clerkship commitment to be around eight weeks. Some employers may have slightly longer clerkships while others may have shorter clerkships.

To avoid any problems, we request that you do not make any summer vacation plans until after you learn your employer's work expectations. Summer clerkships are intense and time consuming. By necessity, your full-time focus and attention is on taking advantage of the summer's learning and working experience at your organization.

How do students learn about employers?

The State Bar supplies students with information about each employer. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to do their own independent research.

How many clerkship positions are available?

Dependent on the number of employers who participate. The number of employers will be available in late November.

How are interviews conducted?

You select your top five employers of interest. Then a virtual interview will be scheduled with your selected employers. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place the week of January 22.

Employers will be encouraged to interview all students interested in their position. However, there could be circumstances where the employer is unable to hold an interview with every student interested. If so, you will be given the option to add another employer to your selection.

How are clerks selected?

Once interviews are completed the employers will extend an offer to a student. The student has the option of accepting or declining. A more detailed timeline and process will be shared closer to the interview dates.

Are the positions in person or virtual?

It is up to the employer if the position will be 100% in person (requiring housing) or virtual. If it is a virtual position, there will be a requirement to appear in person eight to ten business days. How that is structured is up to the employer.

Will I receive a housing stipend?

Employers may offer assistance for housing; this will be indicated on their Employer Description Form.

This is the second year of this program. We welcome feedback as we navigate through the early years of this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Burns, 608-250-6181 or kburns@wisbar.org.