Alternative Clerkship Opportunities

While most students focus their clerkship-finding efforts on federal district courts, state circuit courts, and state and federal appellate courts, there are other options for clerkships that may be especially beneficial for those planning a future in particular practice areas. These include federal specialty courts (such as tax, immigration, bankruptcy, international trade, veterans appeals, armed forces), federal administrative courts (such as EEOC, Patent and Trademark Office, DEA, Interior, Labor), specialized state courts (chancery, land, tax, water) and international tribunals. These specialty and administrative hearing courts hire many clerks, often for two-year terms. For instance: the Department of Justice hires over 50 clerks each year for one- and two-year terms; the Department of Agriculture hires a varying number of clerks depending on their budget, for three-year terms; the Securities and Exchange Commission hires 4-6 clerks for two-year terms.

Another option to consider is the position of court staff attorney. The role of the staff attorney is much the same as a clerk, but the attorney serves the court at large rather than individual judges. While many court have career staff attorneys, some also hire for one- or two-year positions.

US district courts and state courts in US territories and protectorates such as American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau, also provide opportunities for students. Many of these opportunities are listed in the Vermont Guide to State Courts. To access the guide, contact the Career Development Office (log-in is required).

Finally, international courts and tribunals present opportunities for clerking, including the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Websites about staff attorneys and administrative law clerkships:
- [http://www.nonpublication.com/stffattys.htm](http://www.nonpublication.com/stffattys.htm)
NALP List of Federal Administrative Law Judges:
http://law2.richmond.edu/clerkship/private/docs/Federal_ALJ_Post_Graduate_Clerkships.xls (log-in required)

Vermont Guide to State Courts (includes US states, territories & protectorates)
http://forms.vermontlaw.edu/career/guides/ (requires log-in: get from CDO)

Courts in US protectorates/territories:
Guam: http://www.guamcourts.com/superior.html
Puerto Rico: http://www.ramajudicial.pr/info-para/listado-de-jueces.htm
Northern Marianas: http://www.justice.gov.mp/
US District Court for the Virgin Islands: http://www.vid.uscourts.gov/
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands: http://www.visupremecourt.org/

International Courts:
International Criminal Court: http://www.icc-cpi.int/EN_Menus/icc
European Court of Human Rights http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/homepage_en