

Supreme Court of Guam Research Attorney Application Procedure

The Supreme Court of Guam welcomes applicants with demonstrated excellence in research and writing and outstanding academic records to apply for a position at the highest court of Guam and is currently seeking to fill vacancies for a research attorney position in September 2012.

Research Attorney

A research attorney at the Supreme Court of Guam primarily serves as a law clerk, tasked with examining the relevant legal issues arising from cases brought before the court. Research attorneys are part of a “central staff” or an “attorney pool” working for all justices of the court. Consequently, applicants should be aware that the appellate writing process demands close collaboration with the justices and other attorneys.

Duties: Daily duties involve researching and writing, preparing bench memoranda in advance of oral arguments, drafting orders and opinions, proofreading and editing orders and opinions, as well as verifying citations and authorities for form and substantive accuracy.

An innovative feature of working for the Supreme Court of Guam involves research attorneys’ membership on Supreme Court subcommittees tasked to examine certain aspect of the law, including drafting new practices and procedures (as in Criminal and Civil Jury Instructions) and new law (as with Rules of Evidence). Membership on the committee allows a research attorney extensive contact among the members of the bench and the practicing bar, and gives the attorney an opportunity to meet and work closely with trial court judges and local practitioners.

Salary and Benefits. The research attorney position is a full-time (40 hours per week) position. The term of the position may vary from one (1) year or two (2) years, to be renewed at the discretion of the Chief Justice. Although a law school graduate may begin employment as a law clerk and receive salary commensurate to their education; upon licensure as an attorney, the salary is governed by statute.

Benefits include accrual of sick and vacation leave. In addition, research attorneys may participate in several benefit programs offered to judiciary employees such as health, dental and life insurance coverage, retirement benefits, and judiciary supplemental benefit programs.

Guam is a beautiful tropical island strategically located in the heart of the Pacific. Research attorneys will have numerous opportunities to travel throughout Asia and the Pacific, and enjoy the island’s beautiful beaches, superb scuba diving and hospitable culture.

Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include a J.D. degree from an ABA-approved law school or a student completing his or her third year of law school. A student completing his or her second year of law school interested in clerking after graduation, may also submit an application. Excellent writing and analytical skills are essential. Applicants should be proficient in the citation forms found in the 19th Edition of the Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation (2005).

Application Procedure

To apply for a Research Attorney position, the following materials must be submitted:

1. A current resume;
2. A cover letter, indicating the applicant's interest in the position;
3. An official transcript;
4. Letters of recommendation, at least one but no more than three, preferably from a faculty member from whom the student has studied; and
5. Two writing samples, no longer than ten (10) pages, and preferably a sample of scholarly (journal) writing.

Please mail or submit the application to the following address:

Danielle T. Rosete, Staff Attorney
Supreme Court of Guam, Suite 300
Guam Judicial Center
120 West O'Brien Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

The Supreme Court of Guam is an equal opportunity employer. No applicant will be refused employment because of race, color, ethnic background, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or any other similar consideration. Requests for accommodations should be made to the Staff Attorney at (671) 475-3395 or drosete@guamsupremecourt.com.