

Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring
December 2019

Dear Fellow Judges:

We are now in the second year of the pilot Law Clerk Hiring Plan. A substantial number of participating judges and law school deans have suggested that the plan include a specific start time, as well as a 24-hour “reading period” before judges contact applicants. The key revised paragraph states:

**For students who entered law school in 2018 (graduating class of 2021):
Judges will not seek or accept formal or informal clerkship applications, or seek or accept formal or informal recommendations, before 12:00 pm EDT on June 15, 2020. Judges also will not directly or indirectly contact applicants, or schedule or conduct formal or informal interviews, or make formal or informal offers, before 12:00 pm EDT on June 16, 2020.**

A copy of the entire plan for the second year is attached.

OSCAR’s application release date and time will be consistent with the plan, as it was last year. A copy of the plan will be posted on the OSCAR website at https://oscar.uscourts.gov/federal_law_clerk_hiring_pilot.

For the reasons stated in the 2017 letter from more than one hundred law school deans, which is also attached, we continue to believe that the pilot plan is in the best interests of law students, law schools, and federal judges. As announced in 2018, this is a two-year pilot plan and participating judges will reconsider their participation after June 2020. We will circulate an all-judges survey to assist in the reconsideration process at the end of the summer of 2020.

Sincerely,

The Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring

Chief Judge Merrick Garland
Chief Judge Robert Katzmann
Chief Judge Sidney Thomas
Chief Judge Diane Wood

Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring
December 2019

Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan, 2nd Pilot Year

Starting with students who entered law school in 2017, the application and hiring process will not begin until after a law student's second year.

For students who entered law school in 2018 (graduating class of 2021): Judges will not seek or accept formal or informal clerkship applications, or seek or accept formal or informal recommendations, before **12:00 pm EDT on June 15, 2020**. Judges also will not directly or indirectly contact applicants, or schedule or conduct formal or informal interviews, or make formal or informal offers, before **12:00 pm EDT on June 16, 2020**.

A judge who makes a clerkship offer will keep it open for at least 48 hours, during which time the applicant will be free to interview with other judges.

This is the second year of a two-year pilot plan. Participating judges will reconsider their participation after June 2020.