

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



POSITION: Official Court Reporter
VACANCY NUMBER: 2025-07
LOCATION: East St. Louis, Illinois
SALARY RANGE: Level 1 \$96,907 to Level 5 \$116,289, depending on qualifications
DATE POSTED: November 14, 2025
CLOSING DATE: December 1, 2025, or until filled*

* Application packets will be reviewed upon receipt, and interviews may be held, as well as a candidate selected, prior to the closing date of this announcement.

POSITION SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Official Court Reporter. This is a full-time permanent position located in East St. Louis. An Official Court Reporter is responsible for the verbatim reporting of proceedings and for the transcription of those proceedings upon request. Official Court Reporters are members of the Clerk's Office and report directly to the Operations Manager. Though Official Court Reporters are often paired with one district judge, reporting resources are pooled and Official Court Reporters are employed *en banc* throughout the district. This position will require occasional travel to the Benton courthouse.

SALARY

Level 1: Starting salary (\$96,907)
Level 2: Starting salary plus 5% (requires merit certification)
Level 3: Starting salary plus 10% (requires realtime certification)
Level 4: Starting salary plus 15% (requires realtime certification and merit certification)
Level 5: Starting salary plus 20% (current Federal Official Court Reporters hired before 10/11/09 only); (requires realtime, merit certification, and longevity)

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend and record verbatim court sessions for both civil and criminal proceedings; read back portions of court record as required.
- Provide transcripts within the time and cost limitations set by the Judicial Conference; electronically file with the Clerk of Court a copy of all transcripts prepared concurrently with delivery to the requesting parties. Fees for transcripts sold to private parties are established by Judicial Conference and are retained by the Official Court Reporter.
- Provide transcripts and/or realtime feed to the court upon request, without charge.
- Perform such administrative duties as required, such as billing for transcripts, financial and other record keeping, preparation and filing of required Administrative Office reports, and responding to official correspondence and telephone calls.

- Maintain and safeguard records until they are disposed of according to statutory requirement and Judicial Conference policy.
- Adhere to requirements of *The Guide to Judiciary Policy*, Volume VI, as well as the court's local Court Reporter Management Plan.
- Provide and maintain own court compatible equipment and supplies necessary to produce realtime computer-aided transcription, including all necessary software, paper, and electronic storage media.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant must possess at least one year of prime court reporting experience in the freelance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof and have qualified by testing for listing on the registry of professional reporters of the National Court Reporters Association or passed an equivalent qualifying examination. Realtime certification is highly desirable.

Applicant also must possess excellent organizational skills to permit the production of transcripts within strict time limitations, work well under pressure, and be willing to work as part of a team of reporters under the direction of the Operations Manager in fulfilling the needs of all judicial officers of the court. Applicant must possess excellent communication skills, tact, judgment, poise, and initiative, and always maintain a professional appearance and demeanor.

BENEFITS

Judiciary employees serve under excepted appointments (not civil service). Excepted appointments are "at will" and can be terminated with or without notice, and with or without cause (*i.e.*, without providing a reason). Federal benefits include paid vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, and retirement benefits. Optional benefits include health insurance, life insurance, flexible spending accounts for health and dependent care, dental and vision insurance, and a tax-deferred savings plan. For more detailed information about Federal Judiciary benefits, please visit the United States Courts website at <https://www.uscourts.gov/careers/benefits>. This position is subject to mandatory electronic fund transfer (direct deposit) participation for payment of net pay.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS

As a condition of employment, the selectee considered for this position is required to undergo an FBI background check. The selectee may be appointed provisionally, and retention will depend upon a favorable suitability determination of the background check.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING

Application packets should include the following:

- A letter of interest describing your knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to the duties of this position;
- Résumé;
- Copies of certifications;
- AO78 (revised 05/24) Application for Judicial Branch Federal Employment (located on the court's website at www.ilsd.uscourts.gov); and
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references.

[Click here](#) to apply using our HR Employment Application System. Receipt will be acknowledged by the Human Resources Department via e-mail. If you do not receive email confirmation, please contact Human Resources at (618) 482-9224. Any questions regarding this vacancy should also be directed to Human Resources.

Application packets must be received by 4:00 PM CT on the closing date. Application packets will be reviewed upon receipt, and interviews may be held and a candidate selected prior to the closing date of this announcement.

Applicants must be United States citizens or eligible to work in the United States. Selection will be consistent with the Federal Judiciary's policy to provide equal employment opportunity and to promote and facilitate diversity, equity, and inclusion in its workforce. Applicants selected for interviews must travel at their own expense, and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.

The court provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis for any part of the application or hiring process. Please contact Human Resources at (618) 482-9224 with any reasonable accommodation requests.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement or to withdraw the announcement, any of which may occur without prior written or other notice. If a similar position opens within 60 days of the closing date of this announcement, applicants under this announcement will be considered without further advertisement and competition. Employees are required to adhere to a Code of Ethics and Conduct, which is available to applicants for review upon request.

Court's Mission

Our mission is to resolve judicial matters fairly and justly in a manner that will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. We are committed to doing so through communication and education in order to ensure respect for the Court. We work to resolve disputes in a timely and efficient manner to promote the public's confidence and trust in the Judiciary of the United States and to protect individual rights and liberties through law.

Clerk's Office's Mission

The mission of the Clerk's Office is to provide administrative and case management support to the district court, members of the bar, the public, and all government agencies in a professional, timely, and efficient manner. Through teamwork, we perform our duties with courtesy, respect, equality, and fairness, thereby promoting public trust and confidence in the judicial system. Success is linked to commitment, and we are committed to excellence.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER