

Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring
October 2, 2020

Dear colleagues,

As noted in the September 21, 2020 email, **the Pilot Plan will be extended another two years** in light of the overwhelmingly positive responses from judges and the strong urging of both Director Duff and the law school deans. The extension will provide an opportunity to see how the innovations introduced during the pandemic will play out in non-pandemic years.

In the last email, we requested further comment on a proposal to reduce from 48 to 24 hours the time that a judge will keep a clerkship offer open. The responses to that proposal were mixed. One suggested compromise was to retain the 48-hour period for at least another year, until we know whether judges will continue to use remote audio- and video-interviewing after the pandemic has abated. That suggestion has been adopted, and the Plan now provides for reconsideration of that issue after June 2021.

The extended Pilot Plan for judges who choose to participate is set out below.

Respectfully,

The Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring
David Barron
Merrick Garland
Robert Katzmann
Sidney Thomas
Diane Wood

FEDERAL LAW CLERK HIRING PLAN, 3rd AND 4th PILOT YEARS

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 2019 (graduating class of 2022): 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 14, 2021**. 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 15, 2021**.

For students who entered law school in 2020 (graduating class of 2023): 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 13, 2022**. 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 14, 2022**.

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 a two-year extension of the original pilot plan. **Participating judges will reconsider their participation after June 2022. After June 2021, participating judges will reconsider the length of time a clerkship offer must remain open.**