The following summaries are based on information gleaned from public sources, subscription resources, peer schools and personal correspondence. Because each individual judge controls hiring in his/her chambers, there may be exceptions to all of these generalizations. So, when in doubt, the best way to learn of a clerkship opening with a particular judge is to call his/her chambers.

Judges’ phone numbers are listed in the “BNA Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges and Clerks”: http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/publicservice/Public-Service-Career-Planning-Resources.cfm#CP_JUMP_167526 (username: cls\career-web; password: office-2k)

New York State Court of Appeals

Term Clerks

Openings are sporadic and not all judges hire clerks on a rotating or regular basis. Applicants should contact each judge’s chambers directly to learn of openings, hiring timelines, materials required, etc.

Central Legal Research Staff

The Court of Appeals each year hires five or six attorneys into two-year clerkships. Central Staff clerks work in Albany and prepare reports on appeals and motions for leave to appeal. Candidates apply between July 1 and September 15. Salary: $76,000 in first year. Merit-based raise to $80,000 in the second year is possible. This position is posted on Symplicity and information is available on the web: http://www.courts.state.ny.us/CTAPPS/clrkship.htm

Recently, Justin Pfeiffer (07) completed this clerkship and came back to campus to discuss this opportunity with students. See the “Why Clerk? The Advantages of Post-Graduate Judicial Clerkships (2011)” at http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/publicservice/Public-Service-Career-Planning-Resources.cfm#CP_JUMP_167528 (username: cls\career-web; password: office-2k)
**New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department (New York City)**

**Term Clerks**

A CLS alumna who knows this Department well told our office that there are no term clerkships available in this Department, as all the judges hire permanent clerks.

**Central Legal Staff**

Based on a conversation with the clerk’s office in the First Department on 4/15/11, a hiring freeze has been imposed in the last few months. No new Central Legal Staff attorneys may be hired due to this freeze.

**New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department (Brooklyn)**

**Term Clerks**

Based on information provided by peer schools, there are no term clerkship openings in this Department, as judges retain personal law clerks on a permanent basis.

**Central Legal Staff**

Based on a conversation with an administrator in this Department on 4/15/11, due to a hiring freeze they are not considering applicants for Central Legal Staff positions at this time.

Through previous conversations with this office we have learned that even when there is no hiring freeze in place, this is a very competitive position to obtain. Less than 10% of those who apply are invited to participate in an orientation session and writing test. Those who pass through that screening are interviewed by the Chief Court Attorney and a panel of judges. If they “get the job,” applicants are put on a list of eligible candidates who fill positions as they are vacated. And, as of fall 2009, there were 70 people on the eligible candidate list, but zero openings for them to fill, since none of the current Central Legal Staff attorneys were leaving their jobs.

**New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department (Albany)**

**Term Clerks**

Based on information provided by peer schools, there are no term clerkship openings in this Department, as judges retain personal law clerks on a permanent basis.

**Central Legal Staff**

The Third Department hires ten Appellate Court Attorneys to one-year terms. These Attorneys will research and analyze legal questions and issues, prepare preliminary reports and confidential memoranda, review draft decisions, and check citations for the Justices of the Department. Starting salary is $64,834 in the first year and $76,195 after admission to the New York Bar.
The Third Department will begin to accept applications in early August and the position will be posted to Symplicity. Applications will be accepted into later September. To view the 2010 position announcement, see http://www.nycourts.gov/careers/3jd/53001.pdf Historically, Cornell students selected for interviews have traveled to Syracuse University Law School to meet with hiring personnel there.

**New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department (Rochester)**

**Term Clerks**

Based on information provided by peer schools, there are no term clerkship openings in this Department, as judges retain personal law clerks on a permanent basis.

**Central Legal Staff**

The Fourth Department hires eight Appellate Court Attorneys each year for two-year terms. These Attorneys work with all twelve Appellate Justices in the Department. Through researching and writing memoranda, they assist the court in deciding approximately 2000 appeals annually. Starting salary is $64,834 in the first year and $76,195 after admission to the New York Bar.

The Chief Appellate Court Attorney Attorney, Craig Peterson, will travel to Cornell on 9/21/11 (OCI #4) to interview 3L students. (Note the OCI #4 bidding ends on 8/25/11.) Applicants who would like to interview in Rochester may submit their materials directly; the position is posted on Symplicity.
New York State Supreme Court

New York County

A Cornell alumna who knows this court well indicated that judges in the County hire only permanent clerks.

Other Counties

Based on information from peer schools, some individual judges and counties may hire term clerks or pool clerks. (Pool clerks are similar to Central Legal Staff attorneys, in that they work for a group of judges, rather than an individual judge.) Contact judges’ chambers to learn of term clerk openings and contact the Chief Clerks of each Supreme Court to inquire re: pool clerk positions.

Judicial Fellowships

In years past, the NYS Court System has run two fellowship programs which placed recent graduates into trial-level judges’ chambers: The Legal Fellows Clerkship Program and the Commercial Division Clerkship Program. Unfortunately, in 2011, after applicants had submitted materials, the NY State Court System notified applicants that the programs had been discontinued due to budgetary constraints. Since the Court System laid off 367 non-judicial employees in May 2011, it seems unlikely that these programs will be funded in 2012.