

# UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

May 19, 2026

**Reference No.: FY 26-16**

**Position Title:** Immigration Staff Attorney  
**Location:** Office of Legal Affairs, New York, NY  
**Grade/Step:** CL27/25 – CL27/61  
**Salary Range:** \$88,005 - \$114,425  
**Closing Date:** Open Until Filled

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The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit is accepting applications for a term staff attorney position. The Staff Attorney's Office provides legal advice to the judges of the Second Circuit on a variety of matters, including habeas corpus applications, pro se appeals and motions, counseled motions, immigration appeals, *Anders* motions, and other types of motions that arise frequently in federal court. On these matters, staff attorneys function as law clerks to the Court: they review case records and filings, conduct legal research, draft bench memoranda and opinions and orders, and provide three-judge panels with recommendations as to the appropriate disposition of matters. This posting is for a position working on immigration-related appeals, and the appointment is for a two-year term.

**Position Overview:** Staff attorneys on the immigration team handle a docket that includes challenges to the denial of applications for asylum, withholding of removal, or relief under the Convention Against Torture, as well as issues relating to the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Immigration staff attorneys are expected to track developments in immigration law and policy, both in the federal courts and at the agency level, while also handling a substantial caseload.

**Required Qualifications:** Immigration staff attorneys must be able to convey the results of legal research in a clear, concise, and objective manner to the judges of the Second Circuit; draft, proofread, and edit legal memos and documents with accuracy and speed; manage their time effectively to meet tight deadlines; and confidently recommend dispositions.

A successful applicant must have outstanding academic credentials and superior skills in analysis, research, writing, and editing. An applicant should have a strong interest in immigration law. A JD from an ABA-approved law school is required. Prior federal court experience, including judicial internships, is preferred. Law review or other legal publication experience is strongly preferred.

**Benefits:** Thirteen days of vacation for the first three years, increasing with tenure. Thirteen days of sick leave and eleven holidays. Choice of employer-subsidized federal health and life insurance plans, with optional dental, vision, and long-term care coverage. Flexible spending account program. On-site fitness center and cafeteria. Public transportation subsidy (budget dependent).

**Application Procedures:** An application package must include the following materials: a cover letter; resume, law school transcript, two writing samples (preferably unedited by another person), and contact information for three references (if possible, all should be able to comment on your writing). The application package may be submitted via email to [SAO\\_Applications@ca2.uscourts.gov](mailto:SAO_Applications@ca2.uscourts.gov), with the reference #FY26-16 in the subject line. The application package may also be submitted via OSCAR at <https://oscar.uscourts.gov/home>. The Court prefers applications submitted via OSCAR.

**Conditions of Employment:** Must be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident seeking U.S. citizenship. Positions with the U.S. Courts are excepted service appointments, which are “at will” and may be terminated with or without cause. The applicant(s) selected for the position will be brought on provisionally pending the results of a background check. Direct deposit of pay is required.

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**