



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Tana Lin
United States District Judge

700 STEWART STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
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Externship Opportunity – Fall 2026

Judge Tana Lin of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington is excited to announce an open part-time externship opportunity in her chambers for a 3L law student from the University of Washington School of Law during the Fall 2026 term.

Judge Lin is seeking a candidate with strong legal research and writing skills, a demonstrated commitment to public service, and a passion for expanding access to justice in our legal system. Judge Lin strongly encourages candidates of all backgrounds and experiences to apply.

About the Position

Judge Lin's goals are for the selected applicant to receive broad exposure to the work of the federal judiciary, develop their professional network, and build valuable skills for their legal career. The selected candidate will be expected to contribute to the day-to-day work of chambers by reviewing case submissions, researching substantive legal issues, observing judicial proceedings, drafting orders, and assisting with chambers administration. The extern will work closely and collaboratively with Judge Lin's law clerks to complete research and writing assignments, participate in chambers discussions, and attend team meetings with Judge Lin. They will also have the opportunity to attend trainings and community and social events that occur during their time in the position.

Judge Lin is looking for a 3L law student who can commit to working in chambers for a minimum of 15 hours per week, ideally on two full days between Monday and Thursday, although flexible scheduling may be available under appropriate circumstances. The extern may seek school credit but is not required to do so.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted between May 1 and June 12, 2026. To be considered for the position, all required application materials must be submitted to simon_apter@wawd.uscourts.gov, including:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Writing sample (5–12 pages)
 - Your writing sample should be accompanied by a cover sheet briefly explaining the context of the writing sample, the degree to which it has been reviewed or edited by others, and any other relevant information.
- Personal statement (no more than one (1) page, single-spaced, 12-point font) addressing the following:
 - Discuss a life experience you have that might inform your work in chambers and/or your future legal career.

Candidates who are invited to interview for the position will be asked to provide the following:

- An unofficial law school transcript
- A minimum of three (3) professional or academic references, at least one of whom is a professional reference from a supervisor, manager, or experiential learning instructor (e.g., a clinic professor)

The candidate selected for the position will also be subject to a background investigation with law enforcement agencies, including fingerprint and criminal record checks.

Candidates are encouraged to address any concerns they may have about the application requirements in their cover letter or raise them during their interview, if applicable. Judge Lin does not intend for any application requirement to be a barrier to any qualified candidate. We will review all applicants holistically, and no single criterion or submission will ensure or disqualify a candidate from consideration.