



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COURT OF APPEAL, FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, California 93721  
Website: [www.courts.ca.gov/careers](http://www.courts.ca.gov/careers)

**JOB TITLE:** APPELLATE COURT ATTORNEY

**LOCATION:** FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

**JOB OPENING:** 5356

## OVERVIEW

The California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, located in the city of Fresno, is looking for attorneys with exceptional research, analytical, and writing skills to do meaningful legal work and contribute to our system of justice. The attorney's duties include drafting motions, research memoranda, and proposed opinions in criminal and civil appeals, as well as original proceedings. To carry out these duties, the attorney will review appellate briefs, records, and other filings, and research and analyze the applicable law.

The Fresno area is rich in culture and diversity with easy access to the coast as well as the Sierra Nevada mountain range and three national parks. The Fifth District Court of Appeal is known as a very collegial and supportive workplace. Fresno has a reasonable cost of living, easy commute, and satisfying lifestyle. The Court is willing to entertain the option of telework with qualified applicants.

The level of appointment and starting salary will be commensurate with experience. This job opportunity will remain open until the position is filled but applicants are encouraged to apply by **August 2, 2021** for earliest consideration.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Substantive and procedural legal principles and applications.
- Scope and character of California and federal statutory and case law and provisions of the United States and California Constitutions; California Rules of Court; the legislative process; statutes and constitutional provisions governing the organization, duties, powers, procedures, management, and conduct of the work of the trial and appellate courts.
- Legal research methods.
- Principles of administrative and constitutional law.
- Rules of evidence and procedure in California trial and appellate courts.
- The operation of personal computers and the use of specified computer applications, such as word processing.
- Principles and techniques of preparing effective oral presentations.
- Principles and techniques of preparing a variety of effective written materials.

Ability to:

- Perform complex legal research, including computerized legal research; apply legal principles and precedents to particular sets of facts.
- Analyze legal issues; present statements of fact, law, policy, and argument clearly, concisely, and logically in both written and oral form.

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- Draft legal opinions, memoranda, and other legal documents and correspondence.
- Interact successfully with Justices and the Court.
- Exercise sound judgment and integrity consistent with representing the judicial branch; maintain confidentiality of work product.
- Organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical deadlines.
- Communicate effectively in English, orally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (This position is open to applicants at all levels with Senior being the highest level)**

**Senior Appellate Court Attorney:** Active membership in the State Bar of California and the equivalent of six years of post-bar legal experience, including substantial appellate experience, in a legal setting such as a private law practice, corporation, government agency, law school, court, or legal publishing company **OR** two years of experience as an appellate attorney, Level D, with the judicial branch.

- *Work experience as a law clerk to a federal judge after passing a state bar but prior to formal state bar admission will be considered equivalent to post-bar legal experience.*
- *For external candidates for the Senior Appellate Court Attorney class, the Administrative Presiding Justice must certify that the candidate possesses “substantial appellate experience.”*

**Level D:** Active membership in the State Bar of California and the equivalent of four years of post-bar legal experience in a legal setting such as a private law practice, corporation, government agency, law school, court, or legal publishing company **OR** one year of experience as an appellate attorney, Level C, with the judicial branch.

**Level C:** Active membership in the State Bar of California and the equivalent of three years of post-bar legal experience in a legal setting such as a private law practice, corporation, government agency, law school, court, or legal publishing company **OR** one year of experience as an appellate attorney, Level B, with the judicial branch.

**Level B:** Active membership in the State Bar of California and the equivalent of two years of post-bar legal experience in a legal setting such as a private law practice, corporation, government agency, law school, court, or legal publishing company **OR** the equivalent of two years of post-bar legal experience in a legal setting described above, including one year of experience as an appellate attorney, Level A, with the judicial branch.

**Level A:** Active membership in the State Bar of California.

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## **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

The ideal candidate:

- Will be able to work well, both independently and cooperatively, with Justices, appellate attorneys, and court staff.
- Has exceptional writing and reading skills and exposure to or experience with the appellate court.
- Possesses a strong work ethic.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

The position requires the submission of an official job application, a resume, and a writing sample. The writing sample should not exceed 15 pages and must be exclusively your own writing, without editing by any other person. For a complete job announcement and to apply online, go to the Careers page at [www.courts.ca.gov/careers](http://www.courts.ca.gov/careers) and search for Job #5356. To ensure earliest consideration, please apply by **August 2, 2021**.

To obtain a printed application, please download a copy from the Tips for Job Applicants page at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/5786.htm> (Click on Employment Application under Special Access) and mail, along with your resume and writing sample, to the following address:

Fifth District Court of Appeal  
Attention: Human Resources/ Job #5356  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

## **PAY AND BENEFITS**

**Salary Ranges (Starting salary level and salary commensurate with experience):**

Senior Appellate Court Attorney - \$9,903 to \$13,216 per month  
Appellate Court Attorney D - \$8,747 to \$11,676 per month  
Appellate Court Attorney C - \$7,602 to \$9,659 per month  
Appellate Court Attorney B - \$6,914 to \$8,782 per month  
Appellate Court Attorney A - \$5,711 per month

## **Benefits package highlights:**

- Health/dental/vision benefits programs
- Thirteen paid holidays per calendar year
- Choice of annual leave or sick/vacation leave
- One personal holiday per year
- Free parking
- \$130 transit-pass subsidy per month
- CalPERS Retirement Plan
- 401(k) and 457 deferred compensation plans
- Employee Assistance Program
- Basic life and AD&D insurance
- FlexElect Program
- Long-term care disability (employee-paid option)

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- Group legal plan (employee-paid option)

**Please note:** If you are selected for hire, the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, will require verification of employment eligibility or authorization to legally work in the United States.

**THE CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL, FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT,  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**