

Frequently Asked Clerkship Interview Questions

THE Most Frequently Asked Questions (you will likely see at least one of these):

- Why do you want to clerk?
- Why do you want to clerk for this court?
- What do you hope to get out of clerking?
- What are your career plans?
- How does clerking play into your career plans/ambitions?
- What do you have to contribute to chambers?

Other Questions about Clerking:

- Why did you apply to me specifically?
- How did you choose the judges that you applied to?
- What would you do if you found that you disagreed with me on a case?
- Would it bother you to work for a judge with whose judicial philosophy you did not agree?
Political leanings?
- Do you consider yourself a strong legal writer?
- How have you honed your legal research skills in law school?

Personality Fit Questions:

- What do you consider your greatest weakness? Strength?
- What do you like to do with your free time?
- What is your favorite movie?
- What is the last book you read?
- How would you describe yourself?
- What do you feel is most important in choosing a place to live?

School Questions:

- Why did you go to law school?
- What was your favorite class at UVA?
- What was your least favorite class at UVA?
- Who was your favorite professor?
- What is the most important thing you have learned in law school? How will it help you in your professional career?
- What areas of the law do you find most interesting?
- Have you/do you plan to write a note?
- How much criminal law have you had?

Work Questions:

- What sort of work did you do during your summer internship?
- What is the most important thing you learned there?
- What are your 10-year career plan?
- In what area of the country are you interested in practicing?
- What public service you have done?

- How would you describe your work style?

Legal Questions (these are the least common types of questions):

- Have you read any of my opinions? Which ones?
- From a judicial standpoint, how do you feel about the death penalty?
- What do you think about judicial activism?
- What do you think the constitution intends as the role of Article 3 judges?
- How would you describe federal jurisdiction to someone who doesn't know about it?
- Which justice's legal style do you most admire?
- Can you tell me about a Supreme Court case where you disagreed with the majority reasoning? Why?