

**JUDICIAL ASSISTANT TO A
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs varied, complex and confidential paralegal, legal secretarial, and office administrative assistance for a Supreme Court justice; performs related work as assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This specialized level in the Judicial Assistant series is responsible for organizing and managing specified administrative, paralegal, and legal secretarial tasks for a Supreme Court justice. Incumbents also organize, coordinate, and ensure successful completion of specifically determined projects and assist with any other administrative and secretarial duties. This class is distinguished from the Executive Judicial Assistant to the Chief Justice in that the latter provides administrative and legal secretarial support to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (*illustrative only*)

- Provides administrative, paralegal, and legal secretarial support to a Supreme Court justice.
- Coordinates activities related to justices' weekly conferences, including weekly distribution and assignment of conference memoranda, maintaining conference data base, sorting and numbering conference memoranda and petitions, maintain conference files, providing needed petitions to staff reviewing conference memoranda, etc.
- Prepares justice's benchbook, including a complete set of documents for each case.
- Prepares calendar memoranda and circulates them electronically to the Calendar Coordination Office.
- Distributes briefs and other staffs' calendar memoranda for review by staff.
- Notifies Calendar Coordination Office of attorney assignments.
- Confirms calendar memoranda to opinion format for circulation.
- Edits, proofreads, and reviews opinions and court orders for correctness with respect to grammar, spelling, punctuation, content, and organization; conforms opinions to uniform style using the California Style Manual, the Harvard Blue Book, and other style manuals.
- Prepares final opinions by checking facts referenced against all documents from the lower tribunal such as the clerk's and reporter's transcripts, administrative record, exhibits, and correspondence; verifies and Shepardizes legal authorities cited using resources found in the law library and computer data bases such as state and federal reporters, state and federal statutes, citators, textbooks, handbooks, restatements, and legislative intent materials.

- Transmits opinions and modifications to Reporter of Decisions; communicates with Reporter of Decisions regarding stylistic requirements and content of opinions; proofreads and carefully inspects galley proofs of all published opinions for complete accuracy.
- Maintains and updates chambers library.
- Organizes and routes work, sets priorities, and follows up to ensure coordination and completion of assigned work; exercises skill in setting priorities that accurately reflect the importance of assigned responsibilities; trains backup support staff; works closely with Clerk's Office and file room staff to ensure that materials are received and sent out in timely fashion.
- Drafts correspondence; independently initiates specified correspondence for signature by appropriate staff.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Must be available to work overtime.
- Must be able to work in an isolated environment.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Administrative office practices and procedures, the standard format for typed materials, including proper memoranda, briefs, drafts, opinions, recordkeeping systems and file maintenance, and standard office procedures and practices.
- Complex legal concepts, terminology, principles, and procedures.
- Methods of complex legal research (traditional and electronic).
- California trial and appellate court practices and procedures.
- Personal computers and the use of specified computer applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, legal applications, desktop publishing, and on-line search and reference tools.
- Correct business English, including spelling, grammar, and punctuation, with emphasis on legal terminology, the uniform system of citation and the California Style Manual, etc.
- Organizational policies and procedures.
- Basic supervisory principles and practices.

Ability to:

- Maintain confidentiality.
- Apply complex legal concepts, terminology, principles, and procedures.
- Conduct complex legal research (traditional and electronic).
- Use initiative and independent judgment within established procedural guidelines.
- Organize, prioritize, and coordinate multiple work activities and meet critical deadlines while maintaining accuracy; exercise skill in setting priorities that accurately reflect the importance of assigned responsibilities.

- Train others in policies and procedures related to work.
- Transport boxes weighing up to 40 pounds.
- Operate personal computers and use specified computer applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, legal applications, and desktop publishing, including demonstrated skills in interpreting and applying technical manuals and tutorials.
- Communicate effectively in English, verbally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of the work, including justices, court staff, and representatives of other governmental and private agencies.
- Plan, direct, and review the work of others on a project or day-to-day basis.

Licenses and Certificates:

None.

Education and Experience:

Equivalent to graduation from high school and six years of legal secretarial experience, including five years of technical legal research and processing. Or One year as a judicial assistant or executive judicial assistant in the judicial branch.

Directly related college-level course work may be substituted for required experience on a year-for-year basis.