



United States Court of Federal Claims

717 Madison Place NW
Washington, DC 20005

POSITION VACANCY

Announcement Number:	OSM-2026-01-SM
Position Title:	Special Master
Open Date:	February 12, 2026
Close Date:	March 20, 2026
Type of Appointment / Position:	Four-year terms – Subject for reappointment for additional four-year terms.
Grade / Salary Range:	\$228,000 – As provided by 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(c)(5)
Duty Location:	Washington, DC (conveniently located across from the White House and Lafayette Park, one block from McPherson Square Metro)
Who May Apply:	U.S. Citizens (or persons eligible to work in the United States)

Position Overview and Representative Duties:

The United States Court of Federal Claims is seeking to fill one special master position in the Court's Office of Special Masters.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 – 300aa-34 (2006)) vests jurisdiction in the Court of Federal Claims to decide vaccine injury cases. The Court's judges appoint special masters for four-year terms, subject to reappointment for additional four-year terms.

The special masters function as the trial judges in these often medically complex vaccine cases. They oversee all aspects of record development, conduct evidentiary hearings, resolve factual and legal disputes, and issue final decisions on entitlement to compensation, damages, and attorney's fees and costs. Special masters rule on motions and evidentiary issues, and they supervise alternative dispute resolution processes. A special master's final decision is subject to appeal to the Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and, ultimately, to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Additional information regarding the Office of Special Masters can be found at:

<https://www.cfc.uscourts.gov/vaccine-claims-office-special-masters>

No relocation expenses will be paid.

Qualifications:

Special masters should have experience managing large caseloads, managing legal and administrative staff, writing opinions or substantive legal memoranda and briefs, and conducting or actively participating in courtroom proceedings. Significant experience as a judicial law clerk, trial attorney, administrative law judge, or in a similar role is critical. The position requires maturity, facility with the principles of litigation and alternative dispute resolution, demeanor appropriate to the position, and experience working with complex factual issues involving expert testimony and terminology, preferably in the field of medicine, immunology, or biology.

To qualify for the position, an applicant:

- Must be a United States citizen and member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, territory, or the District of Columbia for a minimum of five years.
- Must have at least seven years of experience in the active practice of law or other suitable legal experience such as:
 1. Judges of a state court of record, judge of a federal agency board, administrative law judge, or hearing officer.
 2. Attorney for a federal or state agency.
 3. Private law firm senior associate, counsel, or partner who served in a first-or-second-chair role in a trial.
 4. Law clerk to a judge or judicial officer.
 5. Professor of law.
- Must have demonstrated professional competence, including an ability to deal with complicated legal problems, an aptitude for legal scholarship and writing, and the high professional regard of other lawyers.
- Must have demonstrated familiarity with the federal court system, such as, for example, recent litigation in federal court. Knowledge of the Rules of the Court of Federal Claims in general, and of its "Vaccine Rules" in particular, is also desirable.
- Must be willing to travel.
- Medical-related knowledge and experience preferred.
- The selected candidate must successfully complete an in-depth FBI background investigation and Internal Revenue Service tax check, and is subject to five-year update investigations similar to the initial one.

Benefits:

11 holidays • 13-26 days annual leave (increases with service) • 13 days sick leave • Federal Employees Retirement System • Thrift Savings Plan • Commuter Benefit Program/Metro Transit Subsidy Program • Flexible Spending Accounts • Insurance available for health, dental, vision, life, and long-term care.

How to Apply:

Ensure that your application package contains the following required documents:

- Cover letter addressed to Chief Judge Matthew Solomson, United States Court of Federal Claims, including an indication of how the applicant learned of the vacancy (e.g., from USAJOBS, the Court's website, etc).
- Resume.
- Two unedited or minimally edited writing samples (totaling no more than 50 pages combined).
- three professional references (name, affiliation, and contact information) from persons who are familiar with your work.

All documents must be combined into a single PDF file and e-mailed to:

usfcfc_applications@fcfc.uscourts.gov

Zip files and faxes will not be accepted. Please include the Title and Job Announcement Number in the subject line

What to Expect Next

- The court will conduct an evaluation of each applicant's qualifications and materials after receipt of a complete application package.
- Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews may commence immediately.
- The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, to withdraw the job announcement, and/or to commence interviews immediately, any of which actions may occur without prior written or other notice.
- This is an "Excepted Appointment" and an "At Will" position. Federal Government Civil Service classifications or regulations do not apply.
- All appointments are subject to a full background check including an FBI Fingerprint Background Check, as well as periodic reinvestigation.
- If offered employment, such employment will be provisional pending the satisfactory completion of a mandatory Fingerprint and Background Investigation. The provisional nature of your employment, however, will not affect your start date, salary, or other benefits.
- No phone calls please. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.
- The United States Court of Federal Claims is an Equal Opportunity Employer.