

Interview Tips for Judicial Internship Interviews



1. Expect open ended questions. *Why did you go to law school? Why are you interested in this internship? Tell me about yourself.* Think about the answers to these questions in advance, and be able to answer them with some level of detail. This is a terrific opportunity to tell the judge about yourself, so be prepared to let the judge know who you are. Think of two or three things that you want to make sure the judge knows about you. That way, you can be sure to articulate them during the interview.
2. Display your interest and eagerness to learn - judges want to have interns who are interested in learning and being in court. It takes time for judges to take on interns, so they want to know that you are going to be interested and engaged.
3. Be prepared to answer questions about your career goals. Judges like to work with people who have goals and vision for themselves and are highly engaged in their current studies as law students and in their future career as an attorney. You are still a student and may change your mind over time, but you should have a response to this question.

If interviewing in a court of limited jurisdiction, like the Probate and Family Court, the judge might ask if this is the area in which you wish to practice upon graduation. Be truthful. If you do have an interest, then state it. If, you are not sure, you can talk about your interests more generally.

4. Judicial interns typically do research and writing. So, you may wish to communicate your interest and strength in these areas.
5. Some judges ask about your direct interest in the internship. *Why are you interested in an internship with this court? Why are you interested in interning for me?* While this may seem obvious, make sure you spend some time thinking about an answer to this question.
6. If you submitted a writing sample, make sure to reread it before your interview! Be familiar with all your materials, including your resume.
7. Some of this interview is about fit - how you get along with the judge and everyone in the court. Be courteous and polite to everyone you meet. The court employees will be there for years - you are only there for a few months. Some judges ask the court officers and others who you may meet on the way what they think!
8. Ask questions. This communicates your interest in the internship.
9. Go on mass.gov/courts to look at the jurisdiction of the court so you know a bit about the court.