

**GENERAL COURSE GUIDE FOR FEDERAL CLERKSHIPS**

The absolute “must take” course for any federal clerkship is Federal Courts, which covers the structure of the federal court system and the jurisdictional and procedural rules that govern its operation. Evidence, required for all LSU Law students, is also very important. As to substantive law, a given judge’s caseload will vary in content and is often hard to predict. But on non-specialized courts, one can expect a heavy dose of criminal law cases (for which courses in ACJ II, Sentencing, and Corporate/White Collar Crime will be helpful), civil rights cases (for which Employment Discrimination and Constitutional Law II would be especially helpful), and immigration cases (for which Immigration Law and Administrative Law will be especially helpful). Students interested in clerking on specialized federal courts (such as Bankruptcy Courts, the Court of Federal Claims, or the Federal Circuit) will want to focus their study on the specific court’s respective area of specialization.

**Strongly Recommended Courses:**

5603	Federal Courts	3 credits
5401	Administration of Criminal Justice II	3 credits
5421	Constitutional Law II	3 credits

**Recommended Courses:**

5422	Employment Discrimination	3 credits
5400	Employment Law	3 credits
5402	Administrative Law	3 credits
5434	Introduction to Intellectual Property	3 credits
5442	Immigration Law <sup>1</sup>	3 credits
5650	Federal Complex Litigation	3 credits
5501	Income Taxation I	3 credits

**Additional Recommended Coursework:**

5403	Labor Law <sup>2</sup>	3 credits
5405	Antitrust Law	3 credits
5424	Admiralty–Maritime Torts <sup>3</sup>	3 credits
5435	Corporate and White Collar Crime	2 credits
5509	Patent Law <sup>4</sup>	2 credits
5710	Bankruptcy <sup>5</sup>	3 credits

**Related Experiential Learning:**

6003	Field Placement–Judicial	3 credits
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<sup>1</sup> Particularly highly recommended for clerkships in border districts and with the Fifth Circuit, but generally recommended.

<sup>2</sup> Whether this is particularly relevant to your clerkship plans might depend on the area of the country in which you will clerk.

<sup>3</sup> Highly recommended for clerkships in jurisdictions with significant waterways or coastline, such as the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Southern District of Texas, or the Fifth Circuit.

<sup>4</sup> Helpful for clerking for a federal district court to solidify patent material from Introduction to Intellectual Property; highly recommended for clerking in the Eastern District of Texas, the Eastern District of Virginia, and a few other district courts most likely to have a heavier patent case load; not needed for a federal appellate court except the Federal Circuit.

<sup>5</sup> Vital for clerking for a federal bankruptcy court.