



FTC BUREAU OF COMPETITION

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

“If you’re looking for a collegial atmosphere where you are encouraged to take the initiative, the FTC is the place. Here, an individual can make a difference.”

www.ftc.gov/bc

What We Do

WORKING FOR THE BUREAU OF COMPETITION

One of the “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government,” the Federal Trade Commission is the place to be for talented attorneys and law students who are passionate about antitrust law, preserving competitive markets, and protecting American consumers. Bureau of Competition attorneys are among the best in the antitrust world and their work ensures that our markets are open and free, allowing for lower prices and better quality goods and services.

The FTC is an independent agency, and the Bureau of Competition is dedicated to preventing anticompetitive mergers and business conduct that can lead to higher prices, reduced service, less innovation, and fewer choices for consumers. Our attorneys and interns work with economists in collaborative teams to investigate unlawful business practices and, when necessary, bring cases through the Commission’s administrative process or in federal court.

Bureau of Competition Attorneys

Bureau of Competition attorneys are dedicated to serving American consumers and businesses. The varied experiences, skills, and educational backgrounds of our attorneys and legal interns foster an environment that values diversity and achievement. Our collegial and inclusive work environment, early opportunities to take on meaningful assignments, commitment to training and professional development, and excellent federal benefits package are among the key reasons why we have been consistently named a “Top 10 Agency” by the Partnership for Public Service.



The Bureau of Competition coordinates a highly selective recruitment program and places new attorneys in its enforcement divisions. These divisions are differentiated by the markets they investigate.

Mergers I: Health care related industries, including brand-name and generic pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution, medical devices, and consumer health products. The division also reviews markets for defense, scientific, industrial, and consumer products.

Mergers II: A wide range of industries, from coal mines and industrial solvents, to video rental stores, soft drinks, and semiconductors.

Mergers III: Energy, oil, gasoline, and natural gas industries.

Mergers IV: Hospitals, consumer goods, supermarkets, retail, multichannel video programming distribution, and media.

Health Care: Physicians and other health professionals, pharmaceutical companies, institutional providers, and insurers. The division also reviews mergers involving health care products and services.

Anticompetitive Practices: Anticompetitive conduct, with an emphasis on issues of intellectual property rights, attempts by professional and regulatory boards to limit competition, immunities from and exceptions to the antitrust laws, and industry standard setting.

Compliance: Competition orders and appropriate remedies for unlawful mergers or anti-competitive practices.



What We Offer

TRAINING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND BENEFITS

The Bureau of Competition is committed to providing the best opportunities and benefits for its staff. We offer extensive training and professional development sessions, along with a comprehensive benefits package.

Training

- Comprehensive entry-level attorney training program
- Deposition skills
- Trial advocacy skills
- Economic analysis
- Negotiations
- Litigation skills for Federal District and Administrative Court

Professional Development

- Bureau-wide Mentoring Program
- United States Attorney Detail Program
- Paid attendance at professional meetings and conferences
- Continuing legal education
- Speaking opportunities

Benefits

- Competitive government salary
- Paid vacation and sick leave
- Student loan repayment program
- Health insurance and flexible spending accounts
- Life insurance options
- Three tiered retirement system (Social Security, basic pension plan, and tax-deferred Thrift Savings Plan)
- Generous public transit subsidy
- Flexible work schedules
- On-site child care center
- Work/life balance
- Teamwork approach
- On-site health unit
- FTC-wide Diversity Council



Attorney Positions

ENTRY-LEVEL AND LATERAL HIRING

Bureau of Competition attorneys make a meaningful impact upon the lives of American consumers. Our attorneys consult with economists, interview witnesses, draft pleadings, lead depositions, recommend enforcement actions, and participate in investigations and litigation on a wide range of complex antitrust matters. Our new attorneys benefit from immediate opportunities to take on substantive assignments, a collaborative teamwork environment, extensive training and professional development opportunities, and an excellent federal benefits package.

The Bureau operates separate hiring programs for entry-level and lateral attorney positions. Both programs are highly competitive.

Entry-Level Attorney Recruitment

Every fall the Bureau of Competition recruits students in their final year of law school and judicial clerks for 8 entry-level attorney positions. We accept applications from August 1 through September 15. Positions are highly competitive: we typically receive over 700 applications and many positions are filled through offers made to law students from the Bureau's Summer Program.

Law clerks with a JD or equivalent are hired through advance commitment at a Grade 11, Step 7 salary scale. Judicial clerks or other candidates with an advanced degree in a related field may be compensated up to the Grade 12, Step 5 level. Exact salary will be determined by an individual applicant's qualifications.



How to apply

Candidates may email the following materials to bcrecruit@ftc.gov or apply through the on-campus interview process. In the subject line of the email, please include your first and last name and "Entry-Level Attorney Program Application."

- Cover letter indicating your interest in antitrust and the Bureau
- Résumé
- Transcript (an official copy is not necessary)
- Short writing sample (no more than five pages)
- List of three references

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled. Due to the highly competitive nature of the program, applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

Lateral Attorney Hiring

Candidates who have graduated from law school and are not currently completing judicial clerkships should apply through the lateral hiring process. These positions are posted directly on the USAJobs.gov website.

How to apply

Become a My USAJobs Member to post and create a résumé, apply to Federal Government jobs, and receive automated job alerts when positions become available.



FAQs

ENTRY-LEVEL ATTORNEY PROGRAM

What does the Bureau of Competition look for in an applicant?

The Bureau seeks talented students in their final year of law school and judicial clerks with a strong background in economics, business, or antitrust who are interested in serving the public's interest. We seek applicants from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, writing skills, leadership, professionalism, and involvement in their law schools and communities. Most of our successful applicants have taken an antitrust course during law school.

How competitive is the Entry-Level Attorney Program?

The selection process is highly competitive: many of these positions are filled through offers made to law students from the Bureau's Summer Program. Each year we receive over 700 résumés for the remaining openings.

I graduated from law school two years ago. Can I apply to the Entry-Level Attorney Program?

No, the Bureau of Competition's Entry-Level Attorney Program is limited to students in their final year of law school or judicial clerks from accredited law schools. Candidates who are admitted to the bar should check USAJobs.gov for other openings.

Are entry-level attorneys assigned to a specific division?

Yes, you will be assigned to one division within the Bureau. Assignments are made during the summer and are based upon managers' preferences, candidate preferences and qualifications, and workload requirements. More information about the work of each of our divisions can be found in the Bureau of Competition User's Guide.



What types of assignments do entry-level attorneys receive?

The type of work given to entry-level attorneys may include drafting pleadings, discovery requests and responses, appearing in court or at hearings and depositions with Bureau of Competition attorneys, attending meetings with business executives and their outside counsel, reviewing documents, and researching a wide range of legal issues.

What kind of training will I receive?

We provide entry-level attorneys with a comprehensive orientation to the Agency, Bureau, and the work of each of our divisions when you arrive in the fall. We also organize brown bag sessions throughout the year for you to develop skills needed to become a successful attorney. All new attorneys will attend a series of training sessions required during the first three years with the Bureau. In addition, each new attorney is matched with a mentor from within his/her division, and participates in a formal mentoring program during the second year with the Bureau.

When are callback and offer decisions made?

We try to make callback decisions as quickly as possible after the initial interview, generally within three weeks. Offers will be made on a rolling basis, so early applications via bcrecruit@ftc.gov are encouraged. The Federal Trade Commission follows the NALP General Standards for the Timing of Offers and Decisions.



Legal Internships

SUMMER AND SEMESTER POSITIONS

The Bureau of Competition offers summer and semester legal internships for highly motivated law students with an interest in antitrust law. Interns are placed with one of the following divisions: Mergers I, Mergers II, Mergers III, Mergers IV, Anticompetitive Practices, or Health Care.

We offer substantive legal work that gives interns an opportunity to demonstrate their writing, analytical, and advocacy skills. The small size of the program enables interns to be fully integrated onto investigational teams and take on meaningful assignments with significant responsibility. Assignments may include: drafting pleadings, discovery requests and responses; appearing in court or at hearings and depositions with Bureau of Competition attorneys; attending meetings with parties and their outside counsel; leading interview calls and summarizing findings through written reports; reviewing documents; and researching a wide range of legal issues. In addition to receiving meaningful assignments, all interns are assigned an attorney mentor and invited to training sessions and brown bags on key antitrust issues.



Summer Internships

The Bureau coordinates a comprehensive 8 to 10 week Summer Program for second and first year law student interns. Most interns start the last week in May and the Bureau organizes a summer calendar throughout June and July that provides interns with opportunities to learn about the fundamentals of antitrust law, and attend case studies, brown bags, and a variety of social events. Our goal is for all interns to leave the summer with great experiences and skills, as well as strong professional relationships with staff.

2L Summer Internships

The Bureau typically welcomes 8 2L students during the summer and accepts applications from August 1 through September 15. Interns are paid at a GS 9, Step 1 salary. Positions are highly competitive: we typically receive over 700 applications from second year law students for the Summer Program.

1L Summer Internships

The Bureau also welcomes between 6 and 8 1L student interns and accepts applications from December 1 through February 1. Internships are typically unpaid, volunteer positions. Positions are highly competitive: we typically receive over 300 applications from first year law students for the Summer Program.

Semester Internships

The Bureau provides semester internships every spring and fall to second and third year law students with a background in antitrust, economics, or finance. We request that students be available to work at least 10 to 15 hours per week. Students applying for semester positions are encouraged to indicate their preferred divisions in the cover letter. All semester internships are unpaid, volunteer positions.



How to apply

Students may email the following materials to bcrecruit@ftc.gov to apply for a Summer or Semester Internship. Students applying for summer positions may also apply through the on-campus interview process.

- Cover letter indicating your interest in antitrust and the Bureau
- Résumé
- Transcript (an official copy is not necessary)
- Short writing sample (no more than five pages)
- List of three references

“I jumped at the chance to work at the FTC. I was thrown into a case as part of a trial team—writing motions, taking depositions, and learning by doing.”

Applications for both programs are reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled. Due to the highly competitive nature of the Summer Program, applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

FAQs

SUMMER PROGRAM

What does the Bureau of Competition look for in a law student?

The Bureau seeks talented and dedicated law students with an exceptional level of commitment to protecting consumers by enforcing the nation's antitrust laws. We look for candidates with a strong background in economics or business who are interested in serving the public's interest. We seek students with substantive experience from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, writing skills, leadership, and involvement in their law schools and communities.

Are summer interns assigned to a specific division?

Yes, you will be assigned to a specific division of the Bureau during your internship. We want our clerks to become fully integrated within an investigative team and to be given substantive work during the summer, so you will be paired with a small group of attorneys during the Summer Program. Both first year and second year law students work as members of an investigative team with experienced attorneys in one of three practice areas: Mergers, Anticompetitive Practices, and Health Care. Assignments are made in the spring and are based on managers' preferences, student preferences and experience, and workload requirements.

What types of assignments do summer interns receive?

Summer interns receive substantive legal work during the Summer Program. Assignments may include: drafting pleadings, discovery requests and responses; appearing in court or at hearings and depositions with Bureau of Competition attorneys; attending meetings with parties and their outside counsel; leading interview calls and summarizing findings through written reports; reviewing documents; and researching a wide range of legal issues. The type of work given to summer law clerks is similar in complexity to assignments given to junior attorneys.

“I’ve been impressed with the quality of people at the FTC—people at all levels. It’s one of the reasons it’s a great place to work.”

What kind of training will I receive as a summer intern?

The Bureau of Competition is committed to providing interns with a comprehensive training program. In the first week of June, you will participate in a day-long training session to orient you with the Bureau and the work of each of our divisions. We also organize brown bag sessions for you to develop skills as well as learn about different career opportunities available within the Bureau.

When are callback and offer decisions made?

We try to make callback decisions as quickly as possible after the initial interview, generally within three weeks. Offers will be made on a rolling basis, so early applications via bcrcruit@ftc.gov are encouraged. The Federal Trade Commission follows the NALP General Standards for the Timing of Offers and Decisions.

Will the Bureau pay for travel costs?

No, we do not pay travel costs.

