

JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
County Office Building - 175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601
www.co.jefferson.ny.us

Valerie M. Nugent
Director of Human Resources

***A NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE OF \$15 MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION**
PLEASE COMPLETE APPLICATION IN ITS' ENTIRETY - DO NOT SEND RESUME.

OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION
FOR
NO. 60-267 PARALEGAL

VACANCIES: At present, one vacancy exists with the Jefferson County Public Defender's Office, one vacancy with the Jefferson County Department of Social Services and one vacancy with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES. This list may be used to fill future vacancies as they occur in other jurisdictions.

SALARY: \$21.57 - \$26.33/hr. (2023 Rate)
\$45,000 - \$60,000 (Jeff-Lewis BOCES)

CANDIDATES MUST HAVE BEEN LEGAL RESIDENTS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE WRITTEN TEST.

LAST FILING DATE: November 22, 2023

EXAMINATION DATE: January 13, 2024

Disabled Persons and Persons needing Religious Accommodation: If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must meet the following requirements on or before the date of the written test:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an associate's degree in Paralegal Studies; or
- B) Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and possession of a paralegal certificate issued by a regionally accredited or New York State registered institution approved by the American Bar Association and one year of experience in a law office which shall have involved drafting motions, contracts, or doing legal research; or
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of A) and B) above.

NOTE: Finger printing may be required for this position. Any fee will be paid by the applicant.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (illustrative only)

Performs legal research and gathers information relative to legal issues;
Assists with preparation of rough drafts of briefs and various legal documents as assigned and prepares digests of selected decisions and opinions;
Incorporates legal references and includes an analysis of precedents involved in relation to the case of matter under discussion;
Searches legal reference files and other sources for information and data required by the attorney concerned in conducting interviews and answering correspondence;
Prepares petitions, condemnation proceedings, affidavits, renewal contracts, and legal notices;
Verifies citations in briefs, memos, and opinions;
Rechecks the accuracy of cited cases;
Notes and coordinates the maintenance of various materials for office use (i.e., comptroller's opinions, assembly laws, law journals, etc.) and sends for same as required;
Assists in the preparation for hearings and trials by coordinating conferences, appointment times for witnesses, gathering of evidence, interviewing witnesses, issuing subpoenas, etc.;
Supervises the indexing and cross-referencing of legal materials (i.e., local laws, resolutions, etc.) and the development and maintenance of legal files;
Processes notices of claims and other service upon a municipality following general office procedures and policies;
Writes routine correspondence for attorney's signatures, etc.;
Composes written correspondence as may be required by the work;
May conduct field investigation in the conduct of assignments;
Performs miscellaneous clerical tasks such as typing, filing, or record keeping as may be necessary;
Prepares a variety of related reports.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION: Written test will cover knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

Preparing written material

These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

Understanding and interpreting written material

These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the questions **only** on what is presented in the passages and **not** on what you may happen to know about the topic.

Evaluating conclusions in light of known facts

These questions will consist of a set of facts and a conclusion. You must decide if the conclusion is proved by the facts, disproved by the facts or if the facts are not sufficient to prove or disprove the conclusion. The questions will not be specific to a particular field.

Legal terminology, documents and forms

These questions test for the ability to recognize definitions of specific common legal terms or the term which fits a certain description. The questions are presented in various forms such as simple definitions, examples of terminology, and the use of this terminology within documents and forms related to the legal field.

Test guide:

A Guide for the Written Test for **Legal Services** is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

This examination is being prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of examinations will apply to this written test.

JEFFERSON COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

NOTE: Candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books, reference materials, devices, or calculators which provide assistance beyond simple numerical computation.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: With the exception of written tests announced by New York City, if you have applied to take a written test announced by New York State or any local jurisdiction (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must indicate all pertinent examination (exam number, title, and location/jurisdiction) information on a separate piece of paper and submit it with your application.

CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION.

*A **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of \$15 is required for each separately-numbered examination for which you apply. The required fee must accompany your application. Send check or money order payable to the **Jefferson County Treasurer** and write the examination title(s) and number(s) on your check or money order. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** File only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. An exception to the fee requirement will be made only for persons who provide proof that they are unemployed and are primarily responsible for the support of the household; or who are receiving Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. Individuals wishing to claim this waiver of fee must complete an **Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form**. This form is available at the Jefferson County Department of Human Resources office. Such claims are subject to later verification and, if not supported by appropriate documentation are grounds for barring appointment.

Issued: 10-25-23