

Supreme Court Clerkship Exams: Cracking the Code with Prerna Deep

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Here is a quick recap of queries asked during the Webinar

1. **Can one apply for Supreme Court Clerkship immediately after finishing the law school?**

Yes.

2. **Can one get clerkship just by doing internships under a judge?**

You can if the judge likes your work. Judges have the discretion to take somebody outside the examination system. Hence, if you're working with a judge and they like your work, they can offer you a clerkship program.

It's a subjective thing. To assume that an internship will automatically convert to a clerkship would be wrong.

3. **Is knowledge of search engines like Manupatra relevant for the exam?**

Yes it is a must, knowing how to operate a search engine. Assuming one would require it a lot in law school as well, knowledge of how to operate a search engine helps. You would need to brush up those skills as they help in finding out the random things required for the job. It is essential for the exam as well as for the clerkship itself. It helps a lot. They might even ask you to randomly fetch any information in the interview itself as well.

4. **Is it a good idea to start career from clerkship if the goal is to do litigation before the Supreme Court of India?**

Yes, it is. My boss used to say, "one year of clerkship is equal to 5 years of litigation, if you do it right." Clerkship won't be a situation where you're being spoon-fed at all. You

would have to take initiatives on your own. If you are taking the initiative and making the most of the opportunity, it would help.

5. Can a member of the Supreme Court Bar also be eligible to apply for clerkship who is already practicing before the Supreme Court?

You can but you will not be practicing while you are doing the clerkship. So you need give away your license and the duration of the clerkship will not count towards your total years of practice, even for judiciary. This has been very contentious that the years that you put in your clerkship is still not counted as practice year even for judicial exams.

6. What are the resources readily available to prepare for the exam?

You don't really need coaching or buy books specifically for the exam. I don't think there is anything super relevant even in the market. But the absolute main thing is the bare acts. If you read the bare acts and judgments, and I mean the entire judgment and not the summary from somewhere. Just read the bare acts and read the judgments, practice your comprehension. Probably read just case files during your internships and that way you can prepare well.

7. Is Supreme Court Clerkship beneficial to those who want to go for judicial services?

I don't know if the preparation would help. Judiciary would require a lot more work than the Supreme Court Clerkship Exam. There are so many more Acts to study and you will have direct provision questions in the judicial exam, whereas the clerkship exam is more application based. While it might assist you in some ways, but just because you have prepared for the clerkship exams does make you qualified to say you've prepared for judicial exams.

8. For final year students looking to apply for clerkship what would work as proof of acquiring law qualification?

You would be submitting your marks (marksheets) up till the last semester. You will also be giving an undertaking that you're writing your final year exams right now and you

would join after the result comes out. In case you fail in your final exams, even if you had gotten through the clerkship exam they would not take you.

9. The stipend mentioned (80k) is the clerk's in-hand salary or CTC?

It is a contractual job. There's no "CTC". It is a stipend. It is not a "salary" salary. There is the 10% deduction that happens.

10. Does a clerkship help in any way to get a job in a law firm?

Not really. It depends on your overall profile. If your overall profile is on the practice areas of that particular firm you want to get into, then of course it will. But if you're thinking that just the clerkship would get you a job in a law firm that might not be the best idea because it's more towards litigation than a corporate law firm.

11. The subjects mentioned in the webinar for the Supreme Court Clerkship Exam are final or do we need to go through any other subjects as well?

Those are the primary subjects which were mentioned in the notification of last year the exam for which has already happened. Supreme Court does mention the subjects in the call for application. It is recommended that aspirants thoroughly go through the notification.

12. In which month do the applications open for the Supreme Court Clerkship Exam?

Generally the applications are open in Jan-Feb and the exam happens in April-May.

13. What is the interview process like post-exam?

The interview depends a lot on the panel. It could be an actual cakewalk from "why the clerkship", "who are you" to actual technical questions. They might also ask your opinion on a legal crisis and they might actually give you something to read and write on the spot.