

**UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

COMPUTER ASSISTED COURT RECORDER

CLASS CODE: 99-71-12

POSITION PURPOSE

Uses computer-assisted digital audio recording systems to record judicial proceedings in a magistrate or circuit court by setting up both portable and fixed equipment and testing it before each hearing where it is used, operating the equipment during proceedings including marking testimony and retrieving it for playback when requested, and maintaining an inventory, in cooperation with UJS IT, of recorded cases that may be retrieved and copied to other mediums; and prepares transcripts of testimony when requested to provide administrative support for judges.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURE

This position is distinguished by the successful set-up and operation of specialized equipment used to record reliable and retrievable judicial proceedings, in lieu of a verbatim stenographic record of a court reporter. The court recorder serves as the guardian, in cooperation with UJS IT, of the verbatim digital recording of official court proceedings in an accurate, impartial, and confidential manner.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: The duties listed are typical examples of work performed by positions in this job classification. Not all duties are included, nor is the list exclusive.

1. Operates, monitors, and maintains computer-assisted recording equipment to produce an official record of arraignments, trials, hearings, dockets, and other court proceedings requiring a record.
 - a. Ensures witnesses and attorneys speak one at a time to preserve an accurate record.
 - b. Clarifies mumbled or mispronounced words and obtains spellings for proper names and technical terms.
 - c. Marks exhibits, maintains exhibit logs for those offered and received, and provides documentation to the court in a timely manner.
 - d. Maintains original files and backup files in coordination with UJS IT.
 - e. Works with Circuit Administration, UJS IT, and clerk staff to provide computer-assisted solutions for real-time reporting or voice transcripts for judges, attorneys, and/or hard-of-hearing litigants, witnesses, and jurors when requested or approved.
 - f. Trains other personnel to operate the equipment.
2. Records appropriate entries of proceedings and other pertinent information, such as jury voir dire, seating of new witnesses, objections, verdicts, etc., on the computer log throughout the trial process.
3. Uses appropriate series of commands to create, edit, retrieve, format, print, and

COMPUTER ASSISTED COURT RECORDER

store materials electronically; maintain electronic files; and retrieve, refer to, and read case files as assigned.

4. Manages the judge's court calendar to ensure hearings and trials are held in a timely manner and do not conflict with other court events.
 - a. Identifies available times and ensures there are no conflicts in the schedule, such as another judge using the courtroom.
 - b. Ensures sufficient time is scheduled for the hearing or trial.
 - c. Communicates with attorneys to reschedule hearings when necessary.
 - d. Arranges for video or teleconference calls and confirms required equipment is available at each location.
 - e. Notifies the county of the courtroom schedule to prevent conflicts and ensure proper security.
 - f. Sends updated schedules to the judge, court personnel, and officers of the court as needed.
5. Provides administrative and clerical support to judges to ensure efficient courtroom operations and timely communication.
 - a. Responds to attorney and party inquiries on behalf of the judge.
 - b. Answers and routes telephone calls; takes messages.
 - c. Prepares, types, proofreads, and distributes a variety of legal and administrative documents, including letters, forms, orders, and correspondence.
 - d. Maintains and updates case schedules for judges.
 - e. Tracks assigned attorney tasks and prepares weekly updates to the judge.
 - f. Prepares travel vouchers for self and judges.
 - g. Locates files and paperwork for the judge.
 - h. Handles copying and printing tasks.
 - i. Orders and maintains office supplies.
 - j. Contacts UJS IT to resolve issues with state-provided computer equipment for self, judge, and courtroom.
6. Performs other work as assigned.

SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS

This position does not have supervisory authority.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS REQUIRE

This position requires sitting for extended periods of time; travel to Circuit courthouses; travel for in and out-of-state training; maintaining pleasant and professional demeanor and remaining unemotional even in high stress environments; good English language skills to include spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation proficiency; carrying, setting up, and operating specialized recording equipment in multiple locations; operating other office machines such as computer, telephone, copier, etc.; using hands for repetitive movement, including grasping, turning, and typing; and attendance in accordance with rules and policies. The incumbent is also required to work effectively with coworkers and the public, maintain confidentiality, manage stress, meet deadlines, delegate when necessary, as well as ensure coverage during absence by cooperating with coworkers; and the ability to understand and communicate (verbally and in writing) procedures and practices of the court and UJS.

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2

Currently Revised: September 2025

FLSA: Non-Exempt

COMPUTER ASSISTED COURT RECORDER

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Challenges include being responsible for verbatim digital recordings of judicial proceedings. This is challenging because it requires careful transport and set-up of equipment and testing it to ensure functionality; in-depth knowledge of the equipment and its peripheral attachments and how to use them; and keeping records that are functional and easily retrievable.

Problems encountered include transporting and setting up portable versions of recording equipment, marking testimony in appropriate places to facilitate retrieval, and ensuring equipment functions consistently and continually.

DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

Decisions include whether computer-assisted equipment is operational and adequate for the situation at hand; which machine processes to access for specific functions; commands needed to store and retrieve material from electronic equipment; how to mark, refer to, and retrieve materials from recorded testimony; extent of equipment inventory to have available; and processes for training others to use the equipment.

Decisions referred include work assignments where equipment will be used; authorization for transcripts from files; approval of judges' calendars; and approval of equipment purchases.

CONTACT WITH OTHERS AND PURPOSE

Daily contact with circuit administrators, judges, and other judicial staff regarding work assignments; with the public to provide information about court processes and specific proceedings; and with attorneys, State's Attorneys, and defendants to provide information about hearings and court schedules; and routine contact with equipment suppliers and vendors and IT staff regarding specialized equipment functionality.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The incumbent works in a typical office/court environment, and may travel to courthouses within the circuit or for in and out-of-state training. Courtroom proceedings and trials can be volatile, emotional, and require proximity to potentially violent and emotional individuals.

COMPETENCIES/QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- Courtroom procedures, standards, and ethics;
- court procedures and legal systems;
- word processing in a network environment;
- computer programs such as Microsoft WORD, Schedule Plus, and Excel;
- general office procedures and practices;
- legal terminology;
- medical terminology;

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COMPUTER ASSISTED COURT RECORDER

- drug terminology;
- English language, including meaning, spelling, rules, and grammar.

Skill in:

- typing and/or keyboarding proficiently and quickly;
- operation of computer-based word processing equipment and other intelligent micro-computers or terminals;
- use of transcription equipment.

Ability to:

- use analytical skills in working with equipment and computers;
- provide consistently accurate work products;
- work in a confidential environment;
- prioritize assignments and make decisions independently;
- understand and proofread technical and legal materials;
- understand and use medical and prescription dictionaries;
- perform administrative and clerical tasks relevant to the court;
- stay up to date with changes in terminology, slang, and reporting procedures;
- troubleshoot all UJS equipment that may be used in the courtroom and office;
- listen to emotional testimony without reacting or forming opinions;
- maintain confidential information and proceedings;
- meet timelines and deadlines;
- schedule proceedings with multiple parties;
- communicate effectively, both in writing and verbally;
- maintain a professional demeanor when proceedings become emotional or volatile.

Education:

Graduation from high school or possession of a GED certificate.

Experience:

Three (3) years of experience in an office setting or an equivalent combination of related education and experience. Experience in a court environment is preferred.