

2025 FJC Director Search

The Board of the Federal Judicial Center has begun its search for a successor to John Cooke, director of the Center, who will step down in August 2025. The Chief Justice has appointed a search committee of Circuit Judge Thomas Hardiman (Third Circuit), District Judge Sara Ellis (Northern District of Illinois), and Magistrate Judge Tim Baker (Southern District of Indiana) to make recommendations to the Board.

The Center was created in 1967 by statute as an independent agency in the judicial branch. The Center's statutory mission is to "further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in the courts of the United States" through research and analysis about the courts; education for judges and court staff; the study of federal judicial history; and, sharing information with, and about, the administration of justice in the courts of other countries.

The Center has a staff of 121. Its fiscal year 2024 appropriation was \$34,261,000.

The Board is seeking a highly qualified current or former Article III judge, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge for the position.

There are no mandatory criteria (including no mandatory retirement age). The Board will consider, among other things, applicants' management and leadership skills and experience in education and research. Trial judge experience and experience in leadership positions, such as chief judge or Judicial Conference committee chair are advantageous, but not mandatory. It is important that the director have excellent interpersonal skills and leadership qualities; that the director be able to lead and to work effectively with others including judges, government officials, educators, researchers, and lawyers; that the director understand and is committed to the value of independent and objective research and education; that the director have a broad knowledge of the judiciary and the issues it faces. The Board expects the director to commit to a term of at least four years, with the expectation that the tenure will not exceed seven years.

The committee will consider the applicant's willingness to move to Washington, DC or spend substantial time in Washington, DC as a factor in its decision. The person selected may be reimbursed for moving expenses.

The salary for the position is that of a district judge. An Article III judge selected as director will continue to receive their regular judicial salary.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter electronically to FJCDirectorSearch@fjc.gov.

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by Wednesday, February 5, 2025.