

Out of State Job Searches

Start early. Researching and applying for out-of-state opportunities will take time.

Consider the location carefully. Learn what you can about opportunities in the legal market there. Your chances of success increase if the location's economy and law firms—particularly in your intended practice area—are growing. You can learn about the local legal market from the state or local bar association magazines and other legal publications.

Remember that you may incur travel expenses in your job search. Since potential employers want to hire people who will stay, consider what connections you have to the location that will show a commitment to the location.

Have a solid story to tell about your reason for relocating and your plan to do so. Unfortunately, the weather alone may not be a compelling enough reason for your move. Instead, have some explanation for your intention to stay in the area long term. And, be sure you're prepared to take the bar there, or are eligible to waive in, and communicate those plans.

Talk to alumni and friends about possible opportunities. Ask the Career Development Office for help in getting the names of Mitchell Hamline alumni who already practice in the location of interest. You can also research these names online through resources such as [Martindale](#) or Westlaw. The alumni office at your undergraduate college may be able to provide you with names as well. You may already know other people who can provide you with information about the location and possible opportunities.

Look at membership lists of organizations you currently belong to for other contacts. Ask them for referrals and advice about how to “network” to find a job in the geographical area of interest. Informational interviews may help build your connections. Consider joining legal professional associations connected with that state and subscribe to local journals and listservs.

Research possible employers online. Career Development maintains links to more than 50 Web sites, including associations and directories, federal job sites, legal local and national job sites, sites for researching employers, salary information, and grants and fellowships. In general, employers who have hired Mitchell Hamline attorneys already are good possibilities. Career Development offers a tip sheet on researching employers, in addition to periodic training sessions for students.

Consider a judicial clerkship in the location. Becoming a judicial clerk is a great way to learn about the local legal community and the lawyers and judges who are members of it. Career Development has information on clerkships for all 50 states and the federal judicial system in *The Guide to State Judicial Clerkship Procedures*. Also see: [OSCAR](#) (Online System for Clerkship Application and Review) (federal) and [NCSC](#) (National Center for State Courts). Consider exploring a judicial clerkship or externship during the summer.

Use resources at Mitchell Hamline and at law schools in the state. Use the career resources at other out-of-state law schools by calling Career Development to inquire about “reciprocity” policies with other law schools within your state of interest. Many schools will grant *Symplcity* reciprocity, which you can request from the Career Development Office.

Visit the area during breaks. Conduct informational interviews and attend CLEs or bar association meetings that allow you to meet potential contacts, alumni or other job referrals who can serve as guides to the local area. The bar association of the state is a good resource and their publications or website will likely have job postings and information on other events. Also seek out associations focused on practice areas or membership in a certain group, like Minnesota Women Lawyers, and try to attend their events as well.

Research bar admission requirements. The [National Conference of Bar Examiners](#) contains bar admission requirements for the bar authorities in all states. In some cases, employers won't consider you unless you have already taken and passed the bar in that state.

Provide information on Mitchell Hamline if the potential employer is unfamiliar with the school.

Be sure you have some talking points prepared, and perhaps some materials at the ready to address questions. This information can be sent with your resume or brought to an interview. Utilize materials developed in Mitchell Hamline's Admissions, Marketing and Career Offices.

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