



NIAGARA COUNTY
CIVIL SERVICE
111 Main Street – G2
Lockport, New York 14094

Malcolm A Needler
Personnel Officer
(716) 438-4071

SENIOR COURT ASSISTANT

No 62-505 Examination Open to the Public

Salary Range: \$23.14 - \$26.23

The examination will be held to establish an eligible list used to fill three (3) current vacancies in the Niagara County District Attorney's Office and any other appropriate vacancies that may occur during the life of the list. **The list established from this exam will supersede any existing list for this title.**

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have been legal residents of Niagara County for at least one (1) month immediately preceding the date of the written examination and such residency must continue until the time of appointment. **Preference in appointment may be given to successful candidates who have been residents of the municipality in which the appointment is made. Non-residents may be required to become a resident of the appointing municipality if local law so states.**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must meet the following on or before the date of the written exam. **If you do not meet these qualifications, your application will be disapproved and your filing fee will not be refunded.**

Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma **AND** one of the following:

1. Graduation with a Bachelor's Degree **AND** one (1) year of office clerical experience in a legal setting involving criminal cases; **OR**
2. Graduation with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, Paralegal Studies, or related field **AND** two (2) years of office clerical experience in a legal setting involving criminal cases; **OR**
3. Four (4) years of office clerical experience in a legal setting involving criminal cases; **OR**
4. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits above.

NOTE:

1. Office clerical experience involves the performance of routine office tasks, such as keeping of records and accounts, correspondence, recording/entering (keying) and retrieving data and/or information, in accordance with prescribed procedures. *Experience must be in a legal environment involving the maintenance of legal records used in a criminal case;
2. Degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.

DUTIES: This highly important work involves responsibility for planning and managing complex clerical activities regarding criminal cases and for independently performing the more critical and complex functions. This position is responsible to the administrative staff and is given great leeway for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work in accordance with general instructions regarding objectives, policies and procedures. Incumbents provide direct supervision to subordinate employees and have supervisory responsibility over the work of the assigned unit. This position is responsible for scheduling of employees and managing the work and court assignments of the unit. Does related work as required.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES: The use of calculators is **ALLOWED**. Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboard such as computers, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. **Cell phones and smart watches are prohibited.**

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY OR POSTMARKED BY THE FILING DEADLINE. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DISAPPROVED IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE FILING DEADLINE.

FILING DEADLINE

DECEMBER 1, 2023

A non-refundable \$15.00 application fee is required. Apply and pay online or submit a check or money order payable to: **Niagara County Civil Service**

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED: October 17, 2023

EXAMINATION DATE

JANUARY 13, 2024

DRUG SCREENING: Applicants may be required to undergo a drug-screening test to determine suitability for appointment in accordance with local policies. Applicants who test positive may be restricted from future certification.

FEE WAIVERS: Waivers for the filing fee must be completed in full and submitted with required documentation or your application will be disapproved.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: There will be a written test which you must pass in order to be considered for appointment. The written test will be designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **Advising and interacting with others:** These questions test for the ability to interact with other people in order to gather and present information and to provide assistance and advice in a courteous and professional manner.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Supervision:** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

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.

CANDIDATES NOTE: You are responsible for completing all sections of the official application. To receive credit for experience on a job, basic information such as address, name and title of supervisor, hours in the work week, final salary, and duties performed by you, must be shown. Be very specific in explaining experience that will qualify you for the position sought. Ambiguity and vagueness will not be resolved in your favor. **EACH SEPARATE SHEET ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED.**

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangement for taking all tests at one test site. All examination for positions in State government will be held at a State Examination Center.

COLLEGE ACCREDITATION: Your degree must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies that provide this service can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

COLLEGE CREDITS MUST BE VERIFIED WITH AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT. If you have listed college or special courses on your application it will be necessary for you to submit an official transcript or special course certificate. **Documents can be submitted electronically or in hardcopy format but must be on official letterhead or stationary. If these documents are not on file prior to canvassing/certification for vacant positions, your name will not be canvassed/certified and your name will be removed from consideration for all appointments.**

This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with preparation and rating of examinations, as well as establishment and certification of eligible lists for positions in the classified service will apply to this examination.

Please review **[IMPORTANT EXAMINATION INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES](#)**
Exams/Jobs Portal - **<https://niagara-portal.mycivilservice.com/>**

Niagara County Civil Service # 2024-03