Judicial Clerkship Course Selection Guidance

When selecting courses for your second-year:

- Take a seminar in your second year. This timing for your seminar is preferred because professors from these courses can write a knowledgeable letter of recommendation about your research and writing skills. You might consider taking Federal Jurisdiction in either your second- or third-year if you plan to seek a federal clerkship.
- Consider courses that may be of interest to specialty courts. For example, tax courses
 for clerkships with state tax courts; intellectual property courses for the U.S. Court of
 Federal Claims or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Get to know a couple of professors really well, by taking multiple courses with them, going to their office hours with questions, etc. These professors should ideally be the ones who will write your letters of recommendation. When drafting letters of recommendation, it is essential that a professor have something to say about you and your abilities that adds something more than that you scored a high grade on their exam.
- Participate in the writing competition that determines journal membership. While
 membership on a publication is not required for clerkship applicants, many judges
 strongly value the benefits gained from membership on a publication. Information on
 the WashULaw publications is available at http://law.wustl.edu/Publications/index.asp.