

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Position Announcement # 2022-02

ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (ATTORNEY)

The Federal Public Defender, District of Puerto Rico is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender. The federal defender organization operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services to indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related matters upon appointment by the United States District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

APPLICANTS AND APPLICATIONS:

Even if you have previously applied for this position, and not heard back from us or been awarded an interview or job offer, we are inviting all qualified individuals to again submit new applications. We are likewise soliciting applications from first-time candidates.

ABOUT OUR OFFICE:

We are an office of almost 60 employees with 30 attorneys. Our attorneys are a good mix of new and experienced lawyers, and we believe heavily in training, on and offsite, and mentorship. Our practice remains on the cutting edge, and we employ experts and technology in most of our cases - including our trial practice. We train our attorneys to be excellent storytellers supported by two mitigation specialists and eight investigators. Interested candidates are invited to contact our staff to learn more about the office's ethos. We are a large and vibrant group who play well together and enjoy team efforts.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) will manage an extensive caseload; preparing pleadings, briefs and motions; appearing on behalf of the client in trials and court hearings and at other related proceedings; developing litigation strategies; meeting with clients, working with experts, interviewing witnesses, family members assisting CJA panel attorneys; and other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS:

The candidate must have graduated from an accredited law school, be in good standing and admitted to practice before the highest court of a state, territory, or possession of the United States and must be eligible to be admitted on motion (under local rule) to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. He or she should also be eligible to be admitted to practice before the First Circuit Court of Appeals within six months of employment. The candidate must have the ability to travel for training and work within Puerto Rico and within and outside of the United States. The candidate must be computer literate and knowledgeable in word processing (Word). Be proficient in computerized legal research and in utilizing other internet-based resources. Candidate will be bilingual in English and Spanish. Spanish language proficiency is a must.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The successful applicants will have proven trial experience and will have demonstrated a capacity or aptitude for excellence in trial and appellate practice, excellent writing skills, a commitment to the representation of the indigent accused persons, and a reputation for personal integrity.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Appointment to this position is contingent upon the successful completion of an FBI name and fingerprint check. All employees must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and provide proof of such prior to entrance on duty. Federal Public Defender employees are members of the judicial branch of the government and are considered "at will". This position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. You must be a U.S. citizen or person authorized to work in the United States. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit).

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications within the guidelines set by the Judiciary Salary Scale for Assistant Federal Public Defenders. If hired, the private practice of law and notarial practice is prohibited. This position is full time with a comprehensive benefits package that includes health and life insurance, vision and dental benefits, flexible spending accounts, paid time off, sick leave and paid leave for all federal holidays. Participation in the Federal Retirement System and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP with up to 5% government matching contributions).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

In one PDF document, please submit a letter of interest, detailed resume, a writing sample, and three references to:

Federal Public Defender District of Puerto Rico Selection Committee

At: candy_d_carbaugh@fd.org

Email subject must read: **2022-02 AFPD**

Applications to be considered must be received by February 6, 2022. Position will remain open until filled and is subject to the availability of funding. Personal and facsimile submissions will not be accepted, walk-ins will not be attended: prior to interview process. Incomplete or improperly submitted applications will not be considered. Relocation allowances will not be paid.