

Office of Defender Services
Visiting Federal Defender Staff Program

As part of the Knowledge Exchange Program of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), the Office of Defender Services (ODS) has a Visiting Federal Defender Staff program. Federal Defender staff may serve in either the Training Branch or the Legal and Policy Branch or both (and occasionally other branches within ODS) on a six-month temporary duty basis.¹ Applicants must obtain the approval of their federal defender prior to applying to the program. Upon the request of a federal defender, additional funding will be provided to that federal defender organization (FDO) to support the hiring of a temporary replacement for up to one year.

Training Branch Attorney Advisors' responsibilities include: planning, coordinating, preparing written materials for and serving as faculty at local, regional, and national training programs for CJA panel attorneys and FDOs; responding to telephone inquiries from CJA panel attorneys and federal defenders regarding all aspects of federal criminal defense representation; monitoring United States Supreme Court developments affecting federal criminal practice and participating in the Branch's Supreme Court Advocacy Program; and contributing to the Training Branch's web site, www.fd.org.

Legal and Policy Branch Attorney Advisors' responsibilities include: preparing policy papers and reports and collecting materials for consideration by the Director of the AO, the Committee on Defender Services, and the Defender Services Advisory Group on issues of national importance; advising defenders, judges, and court personnel about Defender Services program policies and procedures; and analyzing legal developments and legislation affecting the representation and the administration of the CJA.

Experienced federal defender staff with outstanding leadership and communication skills and the ability to work effectively with diverse groups of people are encouraged to apply. For more information on the program and to apply online, staff should visit:

http://exchangeprograms.ao.dcn/court_exchange/index.php?option=com_fabrik&c=form&view=details&Itemid=3&fabrik=5&rowid=94&tableid=5&fabrik_cursor=0

In addition to completing the on-line application, interested persons should contact Bob Burke at:

Training Branch: Bob Burke, Chief, One Columbus Circle, NE, Suite G-430, Washington, DC 20544; (202) 502-2900 (phone) or (202) 502-2911 (fax); Bob_Burke@ao.uscourts.gov

¹ The temporary duty assignment can be extended up to a period of one year upon written agreement of the AO, the federal defender, and the visiting staff person.