

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Legal Assistant
2018-07

The Federal Public Defender office for the District of New Mexico is accepting applications for a **Legal Assistant** position to be stationed in the branch office in Las Cruces, NM. Federal salary and benefits apply.

Minimum qualifications are high school graduate or equivalent and at least three years legal secretary experience, federal criminal experience preferred. Starting salary ranges from a JSP-6 to JSP-8, currently yielding \$37,349 to \$45,965 annually depending on experience.

This position provides secretarial and clerical support to the attorneys and staff utilizing advanced knowledge of legal terminology, word and information processing software. Legal Assistants must understand district and circuit court rules and protocols; edit and proofread legal documents, correspondence, and memoranda; transcribe dictation; perform cite checking and assemble copies with attachments for filing and mailing. Duties also include screening and referring telephone calls and visitors; screening incoming mail; reviewing outgoing mail for accuracy; handling routine matters as authorized; assembling and attaching supplemental material to letters or pleadings as required; maintaining calendars; setting appointments as instructed; organizing and photocopying legal documents and case materials; and case file management.

The ideal candidate will have a general understanding of office confidentiality issues, such as attorney/client privilege; the ability to analyze and apply relevant policies and procedures to office operations; exercise good judgment; have a general knowledge of office protocols and secretarial processes; analyze and recommend practical solutions; be proficient in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat; have the ability to communicate effectively with assigned attorneys, other staff, clients, court agency personnel, and the public; and have an interest in indigent criminal defense. Must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and be self-motivated while also excelling in a fast paced team environment. This position requires proficiency and coverage in many different areas. Selected applicant must be willing to float amongst support staff duties, be extremely proficient at multitasking, and be willing to perform any required function to ensure office coverage. Spanish fluency **required**. Selected applicant will be subject to a background investigation.

The Federal Public Defender operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, and provides legal representation in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer. Direct deposit of pay is mandatory. Position subject to the availability of funds.

In **one** PDF document, please e-mail your resumé with cover letter and 3 references to:

Melissa Read, Administrative Officer
FDNM-HR@fd.org
Reference **2018-07** in the subject.

Applications must be received by June 29, 2018. Positions will remain open until filled and are subject to the availability of funding.

**No phone calls please. Submissions not following this format will not be considered.
Only those selected for interview will be contacted.**