ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOB POSTING

2020-01 Rev. MITIGATION SPECIALIST

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio announces an immediate opening for a MITIGATION SPECIALIST in its Capital Habeas Unit (“CHU”) located in the main office in Cleveland, Ohio. In accordance with the Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”), the office of the Federal Public Defender provides representation to individuals in federal criminal cases who are financially unable to retain counsel. Individuals hired for this position will represent indigent prisoners who have been sentenced to death in state court in federal capital habeas corpus proceedings in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

JOB DESCRIPTION  Individuals who are interested and would like to be considered for this position must possess excellent oral and written communication skills and a solid foundation in interviewing and psycho-social assessment. A successful candidate is expected to have a working knowledge of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and be able to interact with professionals using DSM terminology. This position includes identifying and interviewing significant family members and social informants, performing extensive, reliable and multi-generational psycho-social histories and developing themes for mitigation based on a client’s psycho-social development. A successful candidate will be able to identify and collect records pertaining to client and his/her family, and conduct interviews in prisons, in the office and in the community, along with other relevant field work. Conducting interviews during evening hours and on weekends may be necessary. Capital mitigation experience is preferred but is not a pre-requisite.

Applicants must be proficient in relationship building and working as part of an interdisciplinary team. The position will require developing positive and sustaining relationships with clients and their families, working with a team of lawyers, investigators, paralegals and other experts, and assisting in the development and integration of mitigation themes as well as the preparation and implementation of field investigations.
REQUIREMENTS Interested applicants must be able to demonstrate a firm commitment to providing representation of the highest caliber to indigent persons facing execution in a diverse, team-oriented, work environment. A Master’s degree in Social Work is preferred. A Bachelor’s degree in combination with relevant experience can be substituted for a Master’s degree. This position may require extensive travel. Applicants must possess a valid driver’s license, a functional vehicle and car insurance (mileage is reimbursable). Varying hours including nights, weekends, and holidays may be required.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS Appointment is provisional based on the successful completion of a background investigation which includes fingerprinting. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident seeking U.S. citizenship. Noncitizens must execute an affidavit indicating their intent to apply for citizenship when they become eligible to do so.

SALARY AND BENEFITS The starting salary range is commensurate with experience at the Judiciary Salary Plan Grade of JSP 11 with promotional opportunities over time to JSP 14. The position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The position does include regular Government employment benefits including health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). All positions are at will and are subject to the availability of funds.

HOW TO APPLY The method of application for individuals who meet these qualifications is by e-mail. Include as attachments: (1) a letter of interest; (2) a resume highlighting relevant experience and contact information for at least three references; (3) a completed AO 78; and (4) a recent writing sample not to exceed 10 pages. Send these documents in .pdf format to:

OHN_Employment@fd.org

Subject Line: CHU Mitigation Specialist

Representing those most vulnerable and in need of dedicated, compassionate, and diverse legal assistance, the Office of the Federal Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Multiple positions may be filled with this posting and the posting is open until the position is filled. Due to the anticipated volume of responses, only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted. Please, no phone calls.