

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Western District of Virginia

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER - Roanoke Office Announcement # VAW-2021-01

The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia is seeking an attorney committed to zealous representation of the indigent accused—committed to protecting their constitutional interests while providing holistic representation. Our office mission requires that each employee embrace our core values: compassion, courage, competency, creativity, and collaboration.

This position will focus, almost exclusively, on written advocacy. The attorney will assist trial teams with death penalty litigation, but may also handle some appellate litigation, post-conviction relief petitions, compassionate release motions, and other intense writing projects as they arise. There will be limited in-court appearances. As such, the ideal candidate will have all or most of the following skills: prior death penalty litigation experience (appellate or capital habeas preferred); superior oral and written communication; demonstrated ability to work with a team; ability to multitask and meet concrete deadlines; technological proficiency; and history of aggressive, but civil, representation on behalf of clients. Further, the ideal candidate will be client-centered, open-minded, creative, empathetic, a quick learner, enthusiastic, honest, hard-working, and respectful of others.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia provides legal representation in criminal defense services to individuals charged with federal crimes who are financially unable to retain counsel. Assistant Federal Public Defenders provide direct representation of indigent persons charged with federal crimes in the Western District of Virginia, on appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and in post-conviction matters brought in federal court.

This position is for a licensed attorney. Applicants must be an active member and in good standing with a State Bar. Candidates that do not meet this criterion will not be considered for employment.

Salary is dependent on experience and qualifications. This position is full-time with federal salary and benefits. Employees of the Federal Public Defender are members of the judicial branch of government. They are considered at-will employees and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation. Salary payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and writing sample (in pdf format only) to:

Rhonda Bowman, Administrative Officer
210 First Street, SW, Suite 400
Roanoke, Virginia 24011
Rhonda_Bowman@fd.org

Application Deadline: Priority will be given to applications received by November 18, 2020.

THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER