

**FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDER OFFICE
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA
FEDERAL COURT DIVISION
CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT
ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER**

(At Least One Opening)
Open Date: April 29, 2024
Close Date: When Filled

The Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has an opening for at least one Assistant Federal Defender in its Capital Habeas Unit (CHU). The CHU represents death-sentenced prisoners in all stages of federal habeas corpus proceedings. The Assistant Federal Defender works collaboratively within teams and is responsible to conduct investigations, prepare petitions, motions and briefs for the district and appellate courts, maintain contact with clients, and appear on behalf of clients in court hearings and at other relevant proceedings. Our office is located in Philadelphia's vibrant Center City district, in the historic Curtis Center in Philadelphia, close to the federal courthouse and across from Independence Mall, the Liberty Bell and Washington Square Park.

Candidates must have a minimum of five years of criminal practice experience in at least one of the following areas: capital case representation; appellate, post-conviction and/or federal habeas corpus litigation; or complex criminal or civil litigation. Capital post-conviction, federal habeas or appellate experience is preferred. Candidates must possess strong writing ability and a demonstrated commitment to poverty law or indigent criminal defense. Requirements include admission and good standing before the federal bar, in combination with admission

and good standing to a state bar. Eligibility for admission to the Pennsylvania Bar or willingness to sit for and pass the next Pennsylvania bar examination is required.

Candidates must be able to engage in significant overnight travel throughout the Commonwealth and out of state. The position requires that the incumbent occasionally lift and/or move up to twenty-five pounds and spend extended periods driving or riding in a car. Fluency (oral and written) in Spanish is preferred, but not required.

Interested applicants should apply, submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample to [Federal Community Defender Office Careers by May 31, 2023](#). Candidates will be interviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled. Salary will be based upon experience consistent with federal guidelines and regulations. Kindly note that the filling of this position is subject to the funding restrictions and approval of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

The Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity employer. We are dedicated to promoting a professional work environment that supports and respects all employees and applicants without regard to race, color, gender identity, national origin, religion, or disability. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.