

FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF SAN DIEGO, INC.

THE COMMUNITY DEFENDER ORGANIZATION FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EL CENTRO STAFF ATTORNEY VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DESCRIPTION: The El Centro branch office of Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. is looking for a staff attorney. The primary duties of the staff attorneys in El Centro are to represent indigent persons accused of federal crimes at their preliminary court appearances. Staff attorneys interview clients prior to their first appearances, make sure that an attorney is assigned, fight for bail, and conduct detention hearings. For clients that are assigned to Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. for the remainder of their cases, the El Centro staff attorneys act as the primary counsel while the clients are in El Centro (e.g., staff attorneys will review discovery, convey offers, represent clients at their preliminary hearings, arraignments on indictment, waivers of indictment, etc.). For Federal Defender clients charged with misdemeanor illegal entry, our El Centro staff attorneys handle both the guilty plea and sentencing phases of their cases. They also handle identity and removal hearings occurring in the Imperial Valley.

TRAINING: While not a trial attorney position, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. offers all new attorneys extensive training in federal criminal procedure and practice. Training of new attorneys—and ongoing training of more senior attorneys—occurs in San Diego and our El Centro staff attorneys travel to San Diego to attend such training.

REQUIREMENTS: Applicants for this position must be members, in good standing, of the State of California bar. Additionally, applicants should possess superior organizational, time management, and communication skills. Applicants with a commitment to indigent defense—even if they lack prior public defender work experience—are welcomed. This is a full-time, permanent position; a minimum commitment of 2 years in the El Centro office is desired but will also consider commitments of shorter duration. Spanish language fluency preferred but all applications will be considered.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: Salary will be commensurate with experience. This position includes health insurance, life insurance, and 401k. Salary is payable only by direct deposit. All positions are at-will and are subject to the availability of funds. Employment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation. All education, experience, training, and certifications will be verified.

FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF SAN DIEGO, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: Selection of position will be based solely on merit without regard to race, color, religion, religious creed (including religious dress and religious grooming), sex (including pregnancy, perceived pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), gender, gender identity (including transgender identity and transitioning), gender expression and sex stereotyping, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, physical or mental disability, legally protected medical condition or information (including genetic information), family care or medical leave status, military caregiver status, military status, veteran status, marital status, domestic partner status, sexual orientation, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, enrollment in a public assistance program, engaging in protected communications regarding employee wages, requesting a reasonable accommodation on the basis of disability or bona fide religious belief or practice, or any other basis protected by local, state, or federal laws.

HOW TO APPLY: Qualified persons may apply by emailing a letter of interest, resume, and three references in pdf format to: attorneyapp@fdsdi.com, with subject line “El Centro Attorney Position.”

Position open until filled.

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□ EL CENTRO OFFICE • 1699 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE D • EL CENTRO, CA 92243 • T: 760.335.3510 • F: 760.335.3610