



# FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

## TRIAL DIVISION INTERNSHIP

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Oklahoma provides indigent defendants with high quality legal representation at all stages of litigation for offenses ranging from petty misdemeanors to serious felony offenses. Our office has a trial division and a capital habeas division. This internship is for the **trial division**. Typical caseloads include misdemeanors, felonies, supervised release revocations, and appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Our clients are charged with crimes that fall under federal jurisdiction—cases from Armed Robbery to Tax Fraud, from Illegal Reentry to Murder in Indian Country. All internships are unpaid, and there is no promise of future employment for participation.

### Training

Each intern will have the unique opportunity to receive hands-on experience in the preparation of the defense of criminal cases in federal court. An intern may research legal issues, draft motions and memoranda, and otherwise assist in trial preparation and investigation. If interested in appellate work, an intern may also collaborate on briefs to the circuit court. Throughout the internship, interns are encouraged to accompany lawyers to court proceedings, as well as client interviews at the marshal's holdover and local federal detention centers. A supervisory attorney will monitor intern assignments; however, interns should expect to work with one or more of the attorneys during their placement. Interns also may be invited to attend informal lectures on criminal practice in federal court.

Many law school programs will award academic credit to participants in a law clerk program. The requirements and procedures vary depending upon the specific school's guidelines. The law student must coordinate between their school and our office to ensure all requirements are met.

### Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants to our program must have strong written and oral communication skills and a demonstrated interest in public interest and/or indigent defense.

***Summer Program:*** Students are preferred to have successfully completed courses in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure by the position's start date. We generally accept 2L students for these positions. We strongly recommend that 2L students apply for the summer internship by March 1st. Outstanding 1L students may apply if very strong in Research & Writing. Summer interns typically work around forty hours per week in either five-to-six week blocks (for those who split their summer internships) or ten-to-twelve week blocks.

We begin evaluating applications on October 1st.

***Fall/Spring Program:*** Students are preferred to have successfully completed courses in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure by the position's start date. The program is reserved for 2Ls and 3Ls exclusively. Fall and Spring interns must commit to a minimum of 12 hours per week.

### **How to Apply**

Interested applicants should submit their resume, cover letter, unofficial law school transcript, writing sample (usually a brief or memorandum written for a legal research or writing class), and a list of two or three references. Intern positions are filled on a rolling basis.

Send applications to Laura Deskin at [laura\\_deskin@fd.org](mailto:laura_deskin@fd.org).