



# **Internships in Federal Defender Offices with Capital Habeas Units**



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# I. Defender Services

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*The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees an accused the right to representation by counsel in serious criminal prosecutions.*

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees an accused the right to representation by counsel in serious criminal prosecutions. The responsibility for appointing counsel in federal criminal proceedings for those unable to bear the cost of representation has historically rested in the federal judiciary. Before the enactment of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), however, there was no authority to compensate appointed counsel for their services or litigation expenses, and federal judges depended on the professional obligation of lawyers to provide pro bono publico representation to defendants unable to retain counsel.

In 1964, the CJA was enacted to establish a comprehensive system for appointing and compensating lawyers to represent defendants financially unable to retain counsel in federal criminal proceedings. The CJA authorized reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and payment of expert and investigative services necessary for an adequate defense. While it provided for some compensation for appointed counsel (CJA panel attorneys), it did so at rates substantially below that which they would receive from their privately-retained clients.

In 1970, the CJA was amended to authorize districts to establish federal defender organizations as counterparts to federal prosecutors in U.S. Attorneys Offices and an institutional resource for providing defense counsel in those districts (or combinations of adjacent districts) where at least 200 persons annually require appointment of counsel. Today, fifty years since the CJA was enacted, there are 81 authorized federal defender organizations. They employ more than 3,700 lawyers, investigators, paralegals, and support personnel and serve 91 of the 94 federal judicial districts. There are two types of federal defender organizations: federal public defender organizations and community defender organizations.

Federal defender organizations, together with the more than 12,000 private "panel attorneys" who accept CJA assignments annually, represent the vast majority of individuals who are prosecuted in our nation's federal courts. CJA panel attorneys accept appointments in all CJA cases in the four districts not served by a federal defender organization. In those districts with a defender organization, panel attorneys are typically assigned between 30 percent and 40 percent of the CJA cases, generally those where a conflict of interest or some other factor precludes federal defender representation. Nationwide, federal defenders receive approximately 60 percent of CJA appointments, and the remaining 40 percent are assigned to the CJA panel.

## Federal Public Defender Organizations

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Federal public defender organizations are federal entities, and their staffs are federal employees. The chief federal public defender is appointed to a four-year term by the court of appeals of the circuit in which the organization is located. The Congress placed this appointment authority in the court of appeals rather than the district court in order to insulate, as best as possible, the federal public defender from the involvement of the court before which the defender principally practices.

## Community Defender Organizations

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Community defender organizations are non-profit defense counsel organizations incorporated under state laws. When designated in the CJA plan for the district in which they operate, community defender organizations receive initial and sustaining grants from the federal judiciary to fund their operations. Community defender organizations operate under the supervision of a board of directors and may be a branch or division of a parent non-profit legal services corporation that provides representation to the poor in state, county, and municipal courts.

## Capital Habeas Units (CHUs)

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While the Trial/Traditional Units of federal defender organizations handle federal trials and appeals, the Capital Habeas Units (CHUs) protect the constitutional rights of state, and in some instances federally, death-sentenced people. CHUs represent these individuals throughout their federal habeas proceedings.



## II. Offices

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*The following federal defender organizations have CHUs:*

*Middle District of Alabama*

*District of Arizona*

*Eastern District of Arkansas*

*Central District of California*

*Eastern District of California*

*Middle District of Florida*

*Northern District of Florida*

*Northern District of Georgia*

*District of Idaho*

*Southern District of Indiana*

*Western District of Missouri*

*District of Nevada*

*Western District of North Carolina*

*Northern District of Ohio*

*Southern District of Ohio*

*Western District of Oklahoma*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

*Middle District of Pennsylvania*

*Western District of Pennsylvania*

*Eastern District of Tennessee*

*Middle District of Tennessee*

*Northern District of Texas*

*Western District of Texas*

# Middle District of Alabama

*Montgomery, Alabama*



1. **Minimum Eligibility:**  
No minimum eligibility.  
Prior coursework in criminal law/ procedure is helpful but not required.
2. **Times of the year interns are hosted:**  
We host interns year round, but do a more formalized program in the summer.
3. **Number of interns per season:**  
We host somewhere between 5-10 law interns in the summer, and between 1-3 in the spring/ fall.
4. **Whether pay or stipend is available:**  
We presently offer pay to summer law interns. Spring/ fall interns usually join us for course credit through their school externship program.
5. **Whether remote internships are available:**  
We are presently considering remote opportunities.
6. **Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**  
Externships are available; we are happy to accommodate whatever students need from us to obtain course credit from their institution.
7. **Internship application process and deadlines:**  
Interested students should submit a resume, writing sample, and letter of interest to our intern coordinator. Summer internship applications should be submitted no later than February 28. Successful applicants will not be required to undergo a background investigation or fingerprinting.
8. **Contact Information:**  
Our law interns work with both the traditional and the capital habeas units.  
Intern supervision is handled by our intern coordinator:  
Mackenzie Lund, reachable at [Mackenzie\\_S\\_Lund@fd.org](mailto:Mackenzie_S_Lund@fd.org)

# District of Arizona

*Phoenix, Arizona*



1. **Minimum Eligibility:**  
2Ls and 3Ls
2. **Times of the year interns are hosted:**  
Year-round
3. **Number of interns per season:**  
2-3
4. **Whether pay or stipend is available:**  
No
5. **Whether remote internships are available:**  
Unfortunately, no.
6. **Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**  
Definitely. We are able to work with the administrative requirements of law schools to ensure that students are able to obtain course credit.
7. **Internship application process and deadlines:**  
Rolling basis. Students will be fingerprinted when they arrive; no background checks.
8. **Contact Information:**  
Kim Stout  
Kim\_stout@fd.org  
602.382.2775

**See Appendix for additional information about AZ FDO internships.**

# Central District of California

*Los Angeles, California*

## **Information about our program:**

The Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California offers full-time, unpaid summer clerkships for law students. Over the course of ten weeks, law students work closely with lawyers who are challenging their clients' death sentences in state and federal habeas proceedings. This clerkship is an excellent opportunity to hone legal writing skills. In addition to preparing research memoranda, summer clerks are often asked to draft portions of habeas petitions, appellate briefs and petitions for certiorari. Over the course of the summer, our clerks also attend federal court trials, evidentiary hearings, and oral arguments.

We offer a robust training and mentoring program for our students. We hope to ensure that clerks have a firm grasp on the fundamentals of capital habeas litigation before they are given research and writing assignments. Clerks take part in an intensive training during the first week of their clerkship. Weekly trainings are scheduled for the remainder of the program, along with regular meetings with the attorney coordinators, "brown bag" lunches with staff members, and other networking opportunities.

We make every effort to give students an opportunity to interact with clients. This has been challenging because of COVID-19, but in years past, students have traveled to San Quentin State Prison to meet clients on California's death row.

Several current FPD attorneys are alumni of our law clerk program, and many of our alumni are placed in federal judicial clerkships upon graduation from law school.



# Central District of California

*Los Angeles, California*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

Rising 2Ls and 3Ls are eligible to apply, but we give preference to rising 3L students. Strong research and writing skills are required for the job, and we prefer students who have completed coursework in Evidence and Criminal Procedure.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

Our program runs for 10 weeks during the summer.

**3. Number of interns per season:**

Up to 4.

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

This is an unpaid position.

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

We are presently considering remote opportunities.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

This is an in-person position.

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

Interested students should email a cover letter, resume, brief writing sample, and unofficial transcript to [internships@fpdcdca.org](mailto:internships@fpdcdca.org). Please ask students to put "CHU Summer Law Clerk Application" in the subject line. Strong research and writing skills are mandatory; special preference is given to students with a demonstrated commitment to social justice issues. There is no hard deadline for submissions, but hiring decisions are made on a rolling basis. Successful applicants must undergo a background check, including fingerprinting.

**8. Contact Information:**

Ajay Kusnoor, [ajay\\_kusnoor@fd.org](mailto:ajay_kusnoor@fd.org)

Joseph Trigilio, [joseph\\_trigilio@fd.org](mailto:joseph_trigilio@fd.org)

# Eastern District of California

*Sacramento, California*



**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

No minimum experience.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

We have interns year round, though most are in the summer.

**3. Number of interns per season:**

We have had up to 12 or so interns between Trad and CHU units during the summer; much less during the year.

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

Alas, not. We do have a softball team in the summer on which we warmly welcome interns!

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

Most of our internships recently have been remote. This will continue for the CHU, but the Trad unit will need mostly in-person folks moving forward.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

We have done this in the CHU many times, but our Trad unit only does externships with local law students.

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

We require a cover letter, resume, and writing sample. Summer interns are selected beginning in January on a rolling basis until we are full. Externship proposals are considered as received. We do background checks on all interns. We have not been doing fingerprints since the pandemic, but before the pandemic we did them, and we will likely return to them post-pandemic (whenever that is) for at least the in-person interns/externs. Possibility of fingerprinting for remote interns.

**8. Contact Information:**

CHU – Alyssa Mack, [alyssa\\_mack@fd.org](mailto:alyssa_mack@fd.org), 916-498-6666

Trad – Rachelle Barbour, [rachelle\\_barbour@fd.org](mailto:rachelle_barbour@fd.org), 916-498-5700.



# Middle District of Florida

*Ft. Myer, Tampa, Ocala, Orlando, and Jacksonville, Florida*

## **Information about our program:**

The Middle District of Florida Trad has had a well organized intern/extern program for some time. They take interns and externs during Fall, Spring and Summer in all of their offices (Ft. Myer, Tampa, Ocala, Orlando and Jacksonville). The program is described in depth on our website: <https://flm.fd.org/internships>, and the people in charge are attorney Michelle Yard, [michelle\\_yard@fd.org](mailto:michelle_yard@fd.org) and LA Alicia Payton, [Alicia\\_Payton@fd.org](mailto:Alicia_Payton@fd.org).

The Tampa CHU was formed in 2018. We currently represent 41 individuals who were sentenced to death in the state of Florida. We accept a maximum of 2 interns every summer. Our interns are given the opportunity to conduct “big picture” research assignments, as well as assignments on individual cases. Clients are represented by a team with a minimum of two lawyers, and investigator and/or a mitigation specialist, and a paralegal. Interns are invited to be are part of the team; they participate in team meetings, go into the field with investigators, and to meet clients, as well as conduct research and writing assignments.

**See Next Page for detailed information on FL-M FDO internships.**

# Middle District of Florida

*Ft. Myer, Tampa, Ocala, Orlando, and Jacksonville, Florida*

## 1. **Minimum Eligibility:**

Rising 2Ls. Requirements: passion for our work. Coursework in criminal/civil procedure, advanced legal writing, federal courts is very helpful; criminal clinic or other relevant internship/externship experience may also be helpful. Any experience doing social justice work or working with mentally ill or disabled individuals could also be very relevant.

## 2. **Times of the year interns are hosted:**

Summer only

## 3. **Number of interns per season:**

Maximum of two summer interns

## 4. **Whether pay or stipend is available:**

Pay/stipend not available. However, if the student secures outside funding or course credit, we are willing to work with whatever requirements may arise from that.

## 5. **Whether remote internships are available:**

Remote internship not available; because of the collaborative nature of our work, we have found students get much more of the internship if they are in Tampa. We are willing to come up with a hybrid structure (in office some days/week). If we take two interns, we can put them in touch to possibly find summer housing together.

## 6. **Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

Externships available

## 7. **Internship application process and deadlines:**

Applicants must apply through the Federal Defender for the Middle District of Florida Website: <https://flm.fed.org/internships>, and comply with deadlines and requirements for all internships with the Federal Defender. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or eligible to work in and for the United States. This position is subject to a background investigation, therefore, the successful applicant will undergo a mandatory criminal background check investigation, which may include the completion of fingerprint checks. Application deadlines for Summer internships is the last day of February. CHU is willing to do interviews by Zoom. Selected CHU interns must start on the same day as all other Middle District of Florida summer interns and attend a mandatory Federal Defender orientation (typically early June).

## 8. **Contact Information:**

Attorneys Tennie Martin and Jason Mooney(Tennie\_Martin@fd.org & Jason\_Mooney@fd.org).





# Northern District of Florida

*Tallahassee, Florida*

1. **Minimum Eligibility:**  
Minimum rising 2L; criminal and constitutional law courses (and any other capital/criminal/social justice work) preferred
2. **Times of the year interns are hosted:**  
Year-round
3. **Number of interns per season:**  
Flexible based on applicant pool, but strive for 3-5 per semester and 5-8 per summer
4. **Whether pay or stipend is available:**  
Not currently, but we are willing to work with schools for course credit and/or summer stipends
5. **Whether remote internships are available:**  
YES
6. **Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**  
YES
7. **Internship application process and deadlines:**  
Flexible deadlines; we accept applications, cover letters, and optional writing samples from applicants (either through formal recruitment processes or individual emails/outreach). We will follow up with candidates we are interested in by setting up an interview via phone/Zoom/in-person. Background investigation and fingerprinting is required for in-person interns, but not remote interns.
8. **Contact Information:**  
Katherine Blair (Katherine\_blair@fd.org) and Christine Yoon (Christine\_yoon@fd.org)

# District of Idaho

*Boise, Idaho*

1. **Minimum Eligibility:**  
Minimum rising 2L; criminal and constitutional law courses  
(and any other capital/criminal/social justice work) preferred
2. **Times of the year interns are hosted:**  
Year-round
3. **Number of interns per season:**  
Flexible based on applicant pool, but strive for 1-3 per semester and 2-4 per summer
4. **Whether pay or stipend is available:**  
Not currently, but we are willing to work with schools for course credit and/or summer stipends
5. **Whether remote internships are available:**  
YES
6. **Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**  
YES
7. **Internship application process and deadlines:**  
Flexible deadlines. We require: (a) cover letter; (b) resume; (c) transcript;  
(d) three references; (e) 10 page writing sample. We will follow up with candidates  
we are interested in by setting up an interview via phone/Zoom/in-person. We do not  
require a background investigation and fingerprinting, other than checking references.
8. **Contact Information:**  
Malia\_Lopez@fd.org (for application submission)  
Jonah\_horwitz@fd.org (intern coordinator)

# Western District of Missouri

*Kansas City, Missouri*

## **Who are you looking for?**

We consider anybody who demonstrates a valuing of social justice delivered in a culturally competent manner. We are client focused and search for candidates that challenge and commit themselves to meet clients and their families (and witnesses) where they are. If you meet these criteria, you are an ideal candidate regardless of whether you are a 1L or a rising 3L. Labels tell us so little about anyone. 1Ls are encouraged – we will provide a safe environment while instilling valuable training!

## **What's the Missouri CHU's process?**

We have no hard deadlines. It's as easy as emailing either Larry at [Laurence\\_Komp@fd.org](mailto:Laurence_Komp@fd.org), or Daniel at [Daniel\\_Kirsch@fd.org](mailto:Daniel_Kirsch@fd.org). We hope to receive a resume, cover letters and a writing sample for consideration. Once contacted - we set up Zoom or in-person interview (your choice). In that interview, we look for people that possess the above values.

## **When do you have people on site?**

We invite candidates year-round. We also accept split summer internships and have found them extremely beneficial and productive for everyone!

How many other interns may I get to network with?

During school terms, we have had anywhere from 1-3 interns. Over the summer, we have had as many as 8 interns.

## **Can you pay me?**

As a Federal Public Defender, we are prohibited from paying. However, we provide support and work with your school to receive public interest funding if it is available. However, I am sorry I cannot pay – please don't hold it against us!

## **Since you aren't paying me, why should I come there, it will cost me too much!?!?**

We offer and provide a well-established remote internship program! We have had 7 clerks remote-ing at a single time. We can reimburse for case-related travel for visiting clients and field work. Thus, even a remote internship provides a great pre-planned opportunity to represent and meet a client – to do this work!

## **What else or other opportunity or consideration can you give me?**

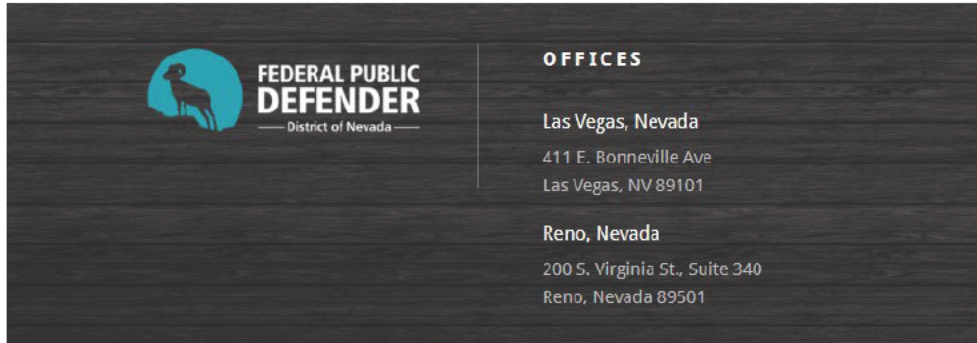
If you are enamored with this work, we have done externships (academic course credit for intern-ing) with Harvard, Northwestern, and Howard. We expect to be setting one up with Miami (Fla) and Minnesota in the future

**See Appendix for additional information about the MO-W FDO and its internships.**



# District of Nevada

*Las Vegas, Nevada*



## Information about our program:

The Federal Defender Office for the District of Nevada, headquartered in Las Vegas, provides legal representation to individuals financially unable to retain counsel in federal criminal and related proceedings. Our office is committed to providing every client with exceptional legal representation. Our attorneys and staff are highly qualified and completely dedicated to indigent defense.

Our office is well-equipped to handle matters in three distinct areas: trials and appeals, capital habeas and non-capital habeas cases.

We offer internships or externships in each of the following units.

### 1. **Trial Unit**

Represents clients with federal criminal cases including drug, firearm, fraud, and immigration at trial and on appeal.

### 2. **Capital Habeas Unit (CHU)**

Represents defendants in federal capital trials and capital habeas post-conviction litigation in Nevada, California, Arizona, Nebraska, and Texas.

### 3. **Non-Capital Habeas Unit (NCH)**

Represents state prisoners in federal habeas corpus proceedings brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. NCH is the oldest and largest non-capital habeas unit in the Federal Public Defender system.



# District of Nevada

Las Vegas, Nevada

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

Extern/Internships are open to rising 1L students and current 2L and 3L students.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

Year-round

**3. Number of interns per season:**

Each unit accepts two students each Fall, Spring, and Summer.

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

This is an unpaid position.

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

Internship/Externships can be in-person or virtual.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

Both extern for credit and unpaid internship positions are open during the Fall and Spring Semesters, and for a 10-week Summer program. While internships are not paid, many students apply for stipends through their schools, or get academic course credit.

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

Application and deadlines are upon receipt and until filled, submit materials early as positions fill quickly. Remote internships are possible, we prefer on-site but will work with alternative proposals. All potential externs with the Federal Public Defender are subject to a background check. Interested applicants must submit: 1) a letter of interest (please indicate whether you have taken criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence); 2) resume; 3) references; and 4) representative writing sample of fifteen pages or less. Applicants may submit these materials by email to the respective unit externship coordinator for each unit of interest:

Trial: Margaret Lambrose at [Maggie\\_Lambrose@fd.org](mailto:Maggie_Lambrose@fd.org)

CHU: Brad Levenson at [Brad\\_Levenson@fd.org](mailto:Brad_Levenson@fd.org)

NCH: Jonathan Kirshbaum at [Jonathan\\_Kirshbaum@fd.org](mailto:Jonathan_Kirshbaum@fd.org)

**8. Contact Information:**

Trial: Margaret Lambrose at [Maggie\\_Lambrose@fd.org](mailto:Maggie_Lambrose@fd.org)

CHU: Brad Levenson at [Brad\\_Levenson@fd.org](mailto:Brad_Levenson@fd.org)

NCH: Jonathan Kirshbaum at [Jonathan\\_Kirshbaum@fd.org](mailto:Jonathan_Kirshbaum@fd.org)

**See Appendix for additional information about the NV FDO and its internships.**



# Northern District of Ohio

*Cleveland, Ohio*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

We are looking for 2L and 3L law students, who have completed (or are taking at the time of the internship) both criminal procedure and evidence.

The Northern District of Ohio recruits interns for both our Traditional Unit and CHU.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

We are hosting for the spring semester, fall semester, and summer term

**3. Number of interns per season:**

Generally, the office employs between 5 and 8 interns each term

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

There is no pay or stipend available

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

Remote internships are possible.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

We do allow internships for school credit and have done this in the past

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

There are no deadlines for applicants, but the sooner the better. All applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, and writing sample. If accepted, they will need to do a federal background check

**8. Contact Information:**

Jeff Lazarus, [jeffrey\\_lazarus@fd.org](mailto:jeffrey_lazarus@fd.org).

All information about our office and the internship can be found on our website:  
<https://www.fpd-ohn.org/careers/externship>



# Southern District of Ohio

*Columbus, Ohio*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

We are always looking for externs (rising 2L's or 3L's) with sound judgment, the ability to work independently, excellent research and writing skills, and a strong commitment to indigent defense and saving clients' lives.

**Times of the year interns are hosted:**

- 2.** During the summer, externs work for at least 20 hours a week; most work full time (40 hours). During the school year, students work a minimum of 12 hours a week.

**Number of interns per season:**

- 3.** We do not have set numbers but usually have 4 to 6 externs in the summer and similar numbers during the school year.

**Whether pay or stipend is available:**

- 4.** Our externs work on an unpaid, volunteer basis but are free to seek funding through work-study or other public interest programs.

**Whether remote internships are available:**

- 5.** In 2020, we adapted our extern program to allow for full or partial virtual participation as needed.

**Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

- 6.** Externs are free to seek credit hours from their law schools.

**Internship application process and deadlines:**

- 7.** While we prefer full-time externs, students who will have completed their first year of law school may apply to extern for a minimum 20 hours per week during the summer and for a minimum of 12 hours per week during the school year. The positions are unpaid, but externs are free to seek funding through work-study or other public-interest programs, as well as credit hours at their law schools.

To apply electronically, send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and transcript to attorneys Erin Barnhart ([erin\\_barnhart@fd.org](mailto:erin_barnhart@fd.org)) and Justin Thompson ([justin\\_thompson@fd.org](mailto:justin_thompson@fd.org)). To apply via hard copy, mail these materials to: CHU Extern Coordinators, Federal Public Defender—Southern District of Ohio, One Columbus, 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1020, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3469.

The CHU considers applications on a rolling basis until positions are filled, and generally holds interviews for summer positions in February of that year. Externs will be subject to a background check as required under the current policy for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (currently the background checks and fingerprinting are suspended by the clerk's office).

**Contact Information:**

- 8.** Erin Barnhart ([erin\\_barnhart@fd.org](mailto:erin_barnhart@fd.org)) and Justin Thompson ([justin\\_thompson@fd.org](mailto:justin_thompson@fd.org)).

**See Appendix for additional information about the OH-S FDO and its internships.**



# Eastern District of Pennsylvania

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*



## **Information about our program:**

The Capital Habeas Unit represents death-sentenced prisoners in post-conviction proceedings in Pennsylvania and other jurisdictions when appointed by the court. Through a multifaceted team approach, the Capital Habeas Unit provides its clients with the highest level of legal representation, while priding itself on treating its clients with dignity and respect.

We are currently accepting internship applications from first and second-year law students for the Summer of 2023. Interviews and hiring will be on a rolling basis until the class is filled. Generally, the unit accepts around 4 to 6 students each summer. The internship is unpaid; however, we will work with schools and other resources to meet the criteria for work study, course credit, or other support. Students are expected to devote 40 hours per week for a ten-week program. The unit also accepts around 3 externs for the fall and/or spring, depending on interest. Remotely participating for either the internship or externship programs is possible.

Students should highlight in their application (1) if they have completed constitutional law, criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence classes, or have relevant clinical or internship experience, and (2) their commitment to public interest law. Qualified students are encouraged to apply by emailing a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to [PAE\\_Employment\\_CHU\\_Interns@fd.org](mailto:PAE_Employment_CHU_Interns@fd.org). Successful candidates do not have to complete a background investigation or fingerprinting.

Over the course of the internship/externship program, students typically:

- Draft motions, memoranda, and briefs.
- Research forensic issues, including DNA, fingerprints, hair and fiber, and ballistics.
- Assist in factual investigation and develop case strategy by reviewing and digesting medical and institutional records and transcripts of prior proceedings.
- Assist in investigation of witnesses.
- Meet with clients on death row to discuss their cases.
- Observe hearings, participate in moots, and observe oral arguments.
- Receive substantive training on all stages and facets of post-conviction litigation.

The Federal Community Defender is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital/parental status, gender identity, gender expression or any other status or classification protected by federal law. We encourage students of all backgrounds to apply.

The names and contact information for the CHU intern coordinators are:

Hayden Nelson-Major, [Hayden\\_Nelson-Major@fd.org](mailto:Hayden_Nelson-Major@fd.org)

David Zuckerman [David\\_Zuckerman@fd.org](mailto:David_Zuckerman@fd.org)

Sonali Shahi [Sonali\\_Shahi@fd.org](mailto:Sonali_Shahi@fd.org)





# Middle District of Pennsylvania

*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

Minimum: rising 2L; evidence is a pre- or co-requisite; ethics and criminal law preferred (completed or concurrent) but not required

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

Year 'round

**3. Number of interns per season:**

Up to 4 law students per semester; we also host investigator and paralegal interns

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

We do not currently offer paid internships; we work closely with schools to provide evaluations and projects needed for academic credit

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

We prefer in-person internships, but have successfully coordinated remote and hybrid programs and will continue to consider remote internships

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

Yes

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

We accept applications on a rolling basis: cover letter, résumé, writing sample (10-20 pages), and transcript; we hold in-person or virtual internship interviews as needed, until internship slots are filled for each semester \*slots typically fill up 1-2 semesters in advance; background checks and fingerprinting is conducted for in-person, but not remote internships

**8. Contact Information:**

Leane\_Renee@fd.org and Ari\_Weitzman@fd.org

# Eastern District of Tennessee

*Knoxville, Tennessee*



**Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc. zealously advocates in federal courts for those who have been accused or convicted of federal or capital crimes. We provide client-centered, vigorous, and compassionate representation to all. We believe in the worth, dignity, and humanity of every client.**

We generally host 3 to 4 interns each summer. We would consider distance interns and there is a possibility of pay some years. Some students spend part of their summer with us and split their time with some other employment or activity. We also are able to provide the supervision for students who need an internship for law school credit. An intern or extern here will work in both traditional and CHU and that can be tailored depending on the student's preferences and interests. With the variety of cases we have, we can provide a student with great research and writing experiences that could generate the perfect writing sample for that student's eventual job search.

Please send resumes with two references and a writing sample to:  
[Sandy\\_Waggoner@fd.org](mailto:Sandy_Waggoner@fd.org)

Knoxville is a fun place for students to spend time. As a university city there are many activities geared toward young people, even in the summer. The Great Smoky Mountains, with hiking and whitewater rafting, are a short drive away. Our office is also very welcoming, with a broad range of professional experiences and we would encourage all interested students to apply.

**See Appendix for information about applying for TN-E FDO internships.**



Great Smoky Mountains



# Middle District of Tennessee

*Nashville, Tennessee*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

No minimum eligibility. We seek qualified applicants with strong research and writing skills, and an interest in indigent criminal defense or death penalty work.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

Each unit sponsors a summer internship program (8-10 weeks) as well as semester externships for law school credit. We can accommodate students who can spend only part of their summer (4-5 weeks) in our office.

**3. Number of interns per season:**

Our internships are unpaid. Parking in downtown Nashville is expensive! Unfortunately, while we can reimburse intern public transportation expenses, we cannot reimburse parking costs. Students may wish to secure class credit for their work with us, or apply for any public interest fellowship or stipend that may be available through your law school.

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

We can accommodate both in-person and remote interns.

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

We can accommodate both in-person and remote interns.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

Externships are available

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

Applications should include: (1) cover letter; (2) resume; (3) writing sample; and (4) law school transcript (need not be official) all saved in one PDF.

Trial Unit Internship: please send materials to Molly Rose Green ([molly\\_green@fd.org](mailto:molly_green@fd.org)).

CHU Internship: please send materials to David Fletcher ([david\\_fletcher@fd.org](mailto:david_fletcher@fd.org)).

Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as early as possible. Semester and summer offers are given on a rolling basis.

**8. Contact Information:**

Trial Unit Internship: Molly Rose Green ([molly\\_green@fd.org](mailto:molly_green@fd.org)).

CHU Internship: David Fletcher ([david\\_fletcher@fd.org](mailto:david_fletcher@fd.org)).





# Northern District of Texas

*Dallas, Texas*

**1. Minimum Eligibility:**

The CHU selects rising 3Ls. We seek candidates who have a strong interest in death penalty defense, strong research and writing skills, and a commitment to client-centered representation. The CHU is invested in recruiting interns from diverse backgrounds. We do not screen applicants based on law school.

**2. Times of the year interns are hosted:**

The CHU recruits interns year-round.

**3. Number of interns per season:**

There are around two interns during the fall and spring semesters and around four interns during the summer.

**4. Whether pay or stipend is available:**

This is a remote and unpaid internship. The CHU will work with interns to obtain academic credit, funding through their law schools, or funding from other sources.

**5. Whether remote internships are available:**

This is a remote internship with the opportunity to travel to the office in Dallas to meet with the teams and visit with clients.

**6. Whether externships (academic course credit for interning) are available:**

Externships are available.

**7. Internship application process and deadlines:**

To apply, submit your cover letter, resume, unofficial transcript, and a short writing sample (5-10 pages) to Derek VerHagen ([derek\\_verhagen@fd.org](mailto:derek_verhagen@fd.org)) and Naomi Fenwick ([naomi\\_fenwick@fd.org](mailto:naomi_fenwick@fd.org)). Recruitment for Summer 2023 is ongoing and we strongly encourage interested students to apply before December 2022. Interns who visit with incarcerated CHU clients will be required by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to undergo a background check.

**8. Contact Information:**

Derek VerHagen ([derek\\_verhagen@fd.org](mailto:derek_verhagen@fd.org)) and Naomi Fenwick ([naomi\\_fenwick@fd.org](mailto:naomi_fenwick@fd.org)).

**See Appendix for information about TX-N FDO's Dallas internships.**



# Appendix

# Federal Public Defender Organization for the District of Arizona



**What is the Federal Public Defender's Office?** The Federal Public Defender's Office (FPD), represents indigent clients. The mission of the Federal Public Defender's Office is to ensure that the right to the effective assistance of counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, is enforced within the District of Arizona on behalf of those who are unable to afford retained counsel and other necessary defense services.

The FPD comprises two units: the trial unit and the capital habeas unit (CHU). The trial unit represents indigent clients who have been charged with violations of federal law, whereas the CHU represents indigent clients who have been sentenced to death under state law and are seeking federal habeas-corpus relief.<sup>1</sup> The CHU, which has staff primarily in Phoenix and Tucson, relies on teams of investigators, paralegals, assistant paralegals, attorneys, and externs<sup>2</sup> to provide high-quality representation to our clients.

**What does a capital-defense externship with the CHU entail?** Externs provide an important part of our team-based approach; accordingly, we offer our externs diverse opportunities to contribute to the mission of the office while allowing them to develop their research and writing skills. Opportunities can include contributing to appellate briefs via research and writing; meeting with clients; assisting investigators with witness interviews; and attending court hearings. Externs may also have an opportunity to assist with the representation of clients who are under an immediate warrant of execution.

**What skills are required of successful applicants?** Because the CHU relies heavily on its externs to help provide the best representation possible for its clients, our externs have strong research and writing skills, as well as the ability to work well with others under tight timeframes.

**How to apply.** Choose the office in which you would like to work, then send a cover letter, résumé, and short writing sample to the contact person identified below.

**Phoenix:** Contact Kim Stout  
kim\_stout@fd.org  
602.382.2775

**Tucson:** Contact

**Salt Lake City:** Contact

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<sup>1</sup> The unit also represents a small number of clients who are under a federal death sentence.

<sup>2</sup> Externships are unpaid positions with the office.

# Missouri - Western Capital Habeas Unit

## Missouri-Western CHU

**We strive to make an intern feel part of a team dedicated to furthering our client's interests. We empower any intern to push themselves and develop their skills, while providing guardrails so they have a positive and safe environment to explore their development. We feel obligated to expose interns to all facets of casework. All we ask in return is they meet the expectation to be a working and heard member of the team for our clients.**

*Mr. Zach Winn, Rising 3L, Harvard  
(CHU Winter Alumni -2022)*

"I interned at the KC CHU as a 2L. The experience was one of the highlights of my time in law school. I was given the training and support, but also the autonomy, to meaningfully develop skills. As an example, I was asked to review a case and brainstorm ideas for a Supreme Court petition for writ of certiorari. Throughout that assignment, I discussed what I was thinking with my supervisor. It was truly collaborative. I took a first pass at drafting a section of that petition, and much of what I wrote made it into the final document. I also spoke with clients and got to know them as people. Those conversations were moving and helped personalize the often technical issues involved in habeas practice. The CHU included me in everything, and I consider the folks I worked with friends. When I was passing through KC, they met me for dinner on a Saturday evening in the middle of the

summer. I am very grateful to have met them. As a result of my internship, I have a better sense for what I want to do with my legal career, and the earned confidence that only comes from real experience. I may have overdone it on the barbecue though..."

*Ms. Britane Hubbard, Rising 2L, U of Minnesota*

*(CHU Summer Alumni -2022):*

"Interning for the CHU was an invigorating experience. Being assigned to a legal team and contributing to the case throughout the entire summer was a great way to learn while observing tangible case developments over time. Working with the CHU also helped me to develop practical legal skills such as document review, issue spotting, legal research and writing, and investigative interviewing. The internship was intellectually challenging and exciting as well. I learned about navigating the different stages of individual claims within a larger petition, the standards of review afforded to separate legal issues raised, and the interaction of case development between the state and federal stages of litigation. Most meaningful was the opportunity to meet our clients and work with CHU attorneys and staff to tell their story. As Bryan Stevenson said, "each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done," and working for the CHU has been an invaluable chance to weave humanity into lawyering."

*Mr. Daniel Cobourn, Rising 3L, Columbia  
(CHU Summer Alumni -2021):*

"Getting both substantial and substantive experience was my highest priority when selecting a summer internship. I could not have been happier with my choice to intern at the Capital Habeas Unit in the Western District of Missouri. In my first week I was tasked with two high-priority assignments. In my last week, I helped draft an argument that would eventually be used in a cert petition to the US Supreme Court. The CHU

## Missouri - Western Capital Habeas Unit

attorneys and staff make it clear from the beginning that your opinion is valued and that you are expected to contribute more than just research memos. In return, the CHU family will do their best to personalize your summer experience. The most rewarding part of my summer involved fieldwork and meetings with clients—experiences I will never forget.”

*Ms. Alexa Johnson Gomez, Rising 2L, U of Minnesota*

*(CHU Summer Alumni -2022)*

“The Missouri CHU has a stellar internship program that provides enough guidelines so one can know what to do, but enough flexibility that interns can make the experience whatever they choose to. The summer began with introducing us to Missouri law and federal habeas concepts so that we could have a baseline understanding going forward. Then, interns were each assigned a case, and we hit the ground running with various assignments. I felt that being involved with small-scale case teams allowed more specialized interaction and focused cooperation than just being an intern for all cases in the office. Every member of the CHU team is dedicated to the success of its summer interns. Help was always readily available when I needed it, and was offered to me freely every step of the way. Throughout my summer, I grew more and more determined to learn and look for creative hooks for legal representation. The attorneys I worked with encouraged my creativity and were always willing to hash out ideas whenever I felt stuck. There is so much to do and the work is fascinating; this isn't the kind of internship where you are merely shadowing attorneys or doing administrative tasks. You can really dig in deep to some gratifying work and follow any path that interests you.”

*Ms. Kelsey Vita, Rising 3L, William & Mary*

*(CHU Summer Alumni -2021)*

“I received ample one on one mentorship and career guidance during my internship with the Missouri CHU. Not only did I get valuable feedback on my legal research and writing, but I also was brought into case strategizing meetings, where my participation was encouraged. After a meeting one day about my future career goals, they set up a group meeting with an attorney at another CHU I was interested in so I could learn more about their work. My internship experience at the Missouri CHU was instrumental in my career development due to the unwavering support of its wonderful attorneys.”

*Ms. Lucy Chin, Rising 2L, U of Minnesota*

*(CHU Summer Alumni -2022)*

“My summer with the Capital Habeas Unit provided an unparalleled survey of public interest law and government advocacy. I was able to work on a wide variety of projects ranging from legal research and writing to client visits to supporting investigations and connecting with community members affected by our pending cases. Every day was unique allowing me to gain a holistic understanding of what comprises client-focused representation. I am interested in practicing in the state of Missouri after I graduate from law school, and being able to connect with and learn about the public defense community that exists in Missouri -- at both the federal and state level -- was informative for my professional development and growth.



# Missouri - Western Capital Habeas Unit

## The FAQs

### Who are you looking for?

We consider anybody who demonstrates a valuing of social justice delivered in a culturally competent manner. We are client focused and search for candidates that challenge and commit themselves to meet clients and their families (and witnesses) where they are. If you meet these criteria, you are an ideal candidate regardless of whether you are a 1L or a rising 3L. Labels tell us so little about anyone. 1Ls are encouraged – we will provide a safe environment while instilling valuable training!

### What's the Missouri CHU's process?

We have no hard deadlines. It's as easy as emailing either Larry at Laurence\_Komp@fd.org, or Daniel at Daniel\_Kirsch@fd.org. We hope to receive a resume, cover letters and a writing sample for consideration. Once contacted - we set up Zoom or in-person interview (your choice). In that interview, we look for people that possess the above values.

### When do you have people on site?

We invite candidates year-round. We also accept split summer internships and have found them extremely beneficial and productive for everyone!

### How many other interns may I get to network with?

During school terms, we have had anywhere from 1-3 interns. Over the summer, we have had as many as 8 interns.

### Can you pay me?

As a Federal Public Defender, we are prohibited from paying. However, we provide support and work with your school to receive public interest funding if it is available. However, I am sorry I cannot pay – please don't hold it against us!

### Since you aren't paying me, why should I come there, it will cost me too much?!?

We offer and provide a well-established remote internship program! We have had 7 clerks remotng at a single time. We can reimburse for case-related travel for visiting clients and field work. Thus, even a remote internship provides a great pre-planned opportunity to represent and meet a client – to do this work!

### What else or other opportunity or consideration can you give me?

If you are enamored with this work, we have done externships (academic course credit for interning) with Harvard, Northwestern, and Howard. We expect to be setting one up with Miami (Fla) and Minnesota in the future.



# FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

— District of Nevada —

## EXTERN AT THE FPD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

We accept applications from students with a demonstrated interest and deep commitment to indigent defense. Las Vegas is known as the ultimate vacation destination; however, our office is known for its dedication to excellent client representation and excels in the art of advocacy in some of the most challenging settings our justice system presents. Extern with us if you share our passion for the mission.

The externship program at the Office of the Federal Defender operates on the premise that the potential for learning outside of the law school is tremendous and we pride ourselves on helping train the next generation of indigent defense lawyers. The externship program is designed to tie theoretical knowledge to practical experience by:

- training students in lawyering skills;
- giving students greater insight into the workings of the legal system, with emphasis on the federal criminal justice system;
- promoting the development in students of a sense of professional responsibility; and
- developing the ability of students to learn from their experience.

### OUR PROGRAM:

Students will work with a dedicated team of attorneys assisting them in responsibilities which may include: research and writing assignments; reviewing records, documents, body camera footage or other discovery/evidence, and transcripts; assisting with investigation; observing a myriad of court proceedings at all levels; and visiting clients when possible.

The office offers positions in three units within the office:

- **Trial Unit:** represents clients with federal criminal cases including drug, firearm, fraud, and immigration at trial and on appeal.
- **Capital Habeas Unit (CHU):** represents defendants in federal capital trials and capital habeas post-conviction litigation in Nevada, California, Arizona, Nebraska, and Texas.
- **Non-Capital Habeas Unit (NCH):** represents state prisoners in federal habeas corpus proceedings brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. NCH is the oldest and largest non-capital habeas unit in the Federal Public Defender system.

Internship/Externships can be in-person or virtual. Each unit accepts two students each Fall, Spring, and Summer. Extern/Internships are open to rising 1L students and current 2L and 3L students.

Both extern for credit and unpaid internship positions are open during the Fall and Spring Semesters, and for a 10-week Summer program. While internships are not paid, many students apply for stipends through their schools, or get academic course credit.

(See below for how to apply)



### **HOW TO APPLY:**

Application and deadlines are upon receipt and until filled, submit materials early as positions fill quickly. Remote internships are possible, we prefer on-site but will work with alternative proposals. All potential externs with the Federal Public Defender are subject to a background check.

Interested applicants must submit: 1) a letter of interest (please indicate whether you have taken criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence); 2) resume; 3) references; and 4) representative writing sample of fifteen pages or less.

Applicants may submit these materials by email to the respective unit externship coordinator for each unit of interest:

- Trial: Margaret Lambrose at [Maggie\\_Lambrose@fd.org](mailto:Maggie_Lambrose@fd.org)
- CHU: Brad Levenson at [Brad\\_Levenson@fd.org](mailto:Brad_Levenson@fd.org)
- NCH: Jonathan Kirshbaum at [Jonathan\\_Kirshbaum@fd.org](mailto:Jonathan_Kirshbaum@fd.org)

# **Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio**

## **Capital Habeas Unit**

The Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) represents death-row inmates at all levels in federal court and also argues for clemency before the Ohio Parole Board and Governor. The legal work concerns the exciting and challenging intersection of constitutional law, death-penalty jurisprudence, and habeas and civil-rights litigation; factual investigation involves digging into records and witnesses related to clients' social histories, including their upbringing, education, and other factors relevant to their development. The CHU works closely with a variety of experts in a range of areas, including neurology, psychology, psychiatry, forensics, DNA, mental-health, addiction, and intellectual disability.

The office operates in teams of attorneys, investigators, and support staff to tackle this demanding and sobering work. Externs with sound judgment, the ability to work independently, excellent research and writing skills, and a strong commitment to indigent defense and saving clients' lives work closely with these teams to assist in both legal and factual research and drafting related to the clients' cases. CHU teams rely on externs' assistance on real projects for real clients and aim to involve the externs as much as possible from start to finish on a project. Externs have also assisted with large-scale projects documenting statistics and trends for particular jurisdictions, including one study that resulted in a published law review article. They are supervised by two Assistant Federal Public Defenders who coordinate work assignments, review work, facilitate feedback, and organize training.

Past externs have participated in a variety of experiences in and out of the office. They include:

- helping to prepare for and attend court and clemency hearings
- attending moots and oral arguments before federal and state courts
- meeting clients on death row
- consulting with experts to prepare written and oral testimony
- going into the field to collect documents and interview witnesses
- meeting federal judges

CHU externs have also had the opportunity to meet clients and observe court proceedings related to work on the trial side of the Federal Public Defender office. In addition, externs can attend office training sessions and meetings. Training topics have included areas such as habeas law, appellate writing, information about effects of trauma on its victims, and updates on forensic and medical science.

During the summer, externs work on an unpaid, volunteer basis for at least 20 hours a week; most work full time (40 hours). During the school year, students work a minimum of 12 hours a week.

The CHU is headquartered in the Columbus office, with one employee based in the Cincinnati office.



Matt Strayer

OSU Class of 2014  
CHU Summer 2012

I chose an externship with the CHU over a paid position because I believed I would benefit more from the intensive research and writing experience. I can say with 100% confidence that I was right.

The fantastic attorneys at the CHU care about your development and will stop at nothing to make sure you have an unparalleled summer experience.

Shahrzad Shams

OSU Class of 2021  
CHU Summer and Fall 2019

Working for society's most marginalized population is an incredible reminder of why I decided to pursue a career in law. I feel that it's rare to find a job that pushes you not only on a professional level, but on a personal level, too—the CHU has provided me just that.

Andrew Katbi

Duke Class of 2013  
CHU Summer 2011

I received interesting, substantive work in a unique and difficult practice area, worked on projects at varying stages in their litigation, and made a meaningful difference in the lives of several clients and their families.

Garibaldy Volney

OSU Class of 2020  
CHU Fall 2018

Working at the CHU gives you real-life practice experience that I would recommend to every law student.

# Externing at the Capital Habeas Unit



Federal Public  
Defender–Southern  
District of Ohio

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COLUMBUS, OHIO OFFICE

One Columbus  
10 West Broad Street  
Suite 1020  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone (614) 469 2999  
Fax (614) 469 5999  
<http://www.fpd-ohs.org/law-students>

## The CHU

The Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) represents death-row inmates at all levels in federal court and also argues for clemency before the Ohio Parole Board and Governor. The legal work concerns the exciting and challenging intersection of constitutional law, death-penalty jurisprudence, and habeas and civil-rights litigation; factual investigation involves digging into records and witnesses related to clients' social histories, including their upbringing, education, and other factors relevant to their development. The CHU works closely with a variety of experts in a range of areas, including neurology, psychology, psychiatry, forensics, DNA, mental-health, addiction, and intellectual disability.

The office operates in teams of attorneys, investigators, and support staff to tackle this demanding and sobering work. Externs work closely with these teams to assist in both legal and factual research and drafting related to the clients' cases. CHU teams rely on externs' assistance on real projects for real clients and aim to involve the externs as much as possible from start to finish on a project.

We seek externs with sound judgment, the ability to work independently, excellent research and writing skills, and a strong commitment to indigent defense and saving clients' lives.

## How to Apply

While we prefer full-time externs, students who will have completed their first year of law school may apply to extern for a minimum 20 hours per week during the summer and for a minimum of 12 hours per week during the school year. The positions are unpaid, but externs are free to seek funding through work-study or other public-interest programs, as well as credit hours at their law schools.

In 2020, we adapted our program to allow for full or partial virtual participation as needed by public-health concerns. Going forward, we will consider remote positions on a case-by-case basis.

To apply electronically, send a cover letter, resume *with GPAs listed*, writing sample, and transcript to attorneys Erin Barnhart ([erin\\_barnhart@fd.org](mailto:erin_barnhart@fd.org)) and Justin Thompson ([justin\\_thompson@fd.org](mailto:justin_thompson@fd.org)).

To apply via hard copy, mail these materials to: CHU Extern Coordinators, Federal Public Defender—Southern District of Ohio, One Columbus, 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1020, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3469.

The CHU considers applications on a rolling basis until positions are filled, and generally holds interviews for summer positions in February of that year. Externs will be subject to a background check as required under the current policy for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

# Program Highlights

Extern experiences include:

- preparing for and attending court and clemency hearings
- attending oral arguments and moots
- meeting clients on death row
- consulting with experts to prepare written and oral testimony
- meeting federal judges

## Past Participants

Nicole Chatham

OSU Class of 2013  
CHU Summer 2011

It was almost overwhelming at first to realize the attorneys truly valued our contributions. They always made time to mentor and assist and provided background information necessary for me to confidently complete my assignments.

Willie Versteeg

OSU Class of 2020  
CHU Summer 2018

The CHU set an awfully high bar on a number of fronts—workplace culture, collaboration, commitment, passion. I need to temper my expectations for whatever comes next.

Max King

Duke Class of 2021  
CHU Summer 2019

At the CHU, I worked alongside talented attorneys, delved into a fascinating area of the law, and contributed to high-stakes cases. I can't recommend it enough!

Timothy Brownrigg

OSU Class of 2012  
CHU Summer 2010

My supervising attorneys were actively involved in my work without being intrusive. The work itself was challenging and meaningful. I learned a lot about myself as a legal writer too.

Michelle Eiler

OSU Class of 2015  
CHU Summer 2013

This was the most meaningful experience I've had in law school thus far. Working closely with remarkable attorneys on the intricate issues of habeas law, I learned how to analyze complex procedural rules and efficiently communicate my ideas and understanding.

Alison Roth

OSU Class of 2020  
CHU Summer and Fall 2018

I was able to immediately jump into *real* legal work. Beyond the useful legal experience, I got to spend my summer working for people who really need help. I truly could not have asked for a better 1L summer.

Shane Wiegerig

OSU Class of 2017  
CHU Summer 2015

Working at the CHU really pushed me out of my comfort zone, always in a positive way. My perspective on many social issues also evolved from being exposed to different ideas and experiences.

Lisa Armour

OSU Class of 2021  
CHU Summer 2019

I got to discuss strategy and work collaboratively with astute defense attorneys with years of experience and attended oral arguments and other trial proceedings. The passion and dedication I witnessed at the CHU was truly inspirational.

Ranya Elzein

OSU Class of 2013  
CHU Spring 2012

I enhanced my legal research and writing skills in a very practical context. Watching the Sixth Circuit argument for a case on which I helped was also great, and meeting with one of the death-row clients was probably one of the most important experiences I have had to date.

Ashley Bailes

OSU Class of 2017  
CHU Summer 2015

No other job would have been able to give me such extensive legal writing and research experience on top of exposure to clients. Constant feedback taught me how to organize and present arguments in a compelling and strategic manner. I owe the CHU a great deal.

Adam Philipp

OSU Class of 2014  
CHU Summer 2012

I worked on fascinating cases I'll remember for the rest of my life. It's some of the most fulfilling work a law student can do.

Matt Somogyi

OSU Class of 2020  
CHU Summer 2018

The CHU will push you to grow, not only as a legal writer and scholar, but as an empathetic and caring professional. The stakes will never be higher and your work will take on an emotional resonance that will inform who you are and what you do in the legal arena for the rest of your life.

Ryan Semerad

OSU Class of 2016  
CHU Summer 2014

My work was challenging, thought-provoking, and hands-on. I gained a detailed understanding of criminal procedure and was exposed to the intersection of psychology and the law. My experiences forced me to become a better legal thinker, writer, and advocate.

Donovan Wood

Indiana Univ. Class of 2016  
CHU Summer 2014

I felt like part of the team from day one. The attorneys are not only prepared for externs, they also rely on the externs to do work on their cases. I also appreciated receiving feedback tailored to my work and designed to improve my writing.

Kimberly Burroughs

OSU Class of 2016  
CHU Fall 2014 – Summer 2015

In the year I spent with the CHU, I felt I grew personally, professionally, and intellectually. I cannot recommend an externship with this office enough.

# Federal Defenders of Eastern Tennessee, Inc. - FDSET

## FDSET MISSION STATEMENT

Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc. zealously advocates in federal courts for those who have been accused or convicted of federal or capital crimes. We provide client-centered, vigorous, and compassionate representation to all. We believe in the worth, dignity, and humanity of every client.

**Values:** Compassion, Client-Centered Representation, Zealous Advocacy, Competency, Integrity, and Diversity and Inclusion

## VOLUNTEER SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc. (FDSET) is a non-profit corporation funded by a grant from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Its clients are indigent defendants being prosecuted in the Eastern District of Tennessee and death row inmates who are being represented in federal capital habeas proceedings. FDSET has offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Greeneville.

Volunteer summer interns are being sought who have an interest in criminal defense. Rising third year law students are preferred. Positions may be available in each of the three offices. Interns will have the opportunity to become familiar with federal criminal prosecutions and with federal capital habeas representations through direct contact with clients, attendance at all types of court proceedings, research and writing, and brainstorming of cases.

Virtual internships may be available. Please indicate whether you are interested in an in person or a virtual internship

Please send resumes with two references and a writing sample by January 10, 2022

to: Sandy\_Waggoner@fd.org

No phone calls, please.

**FDSET IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

## OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

810 Broadway, Suite 200  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

<http://tnm.fd.org>

The Office of the Federal Public Defender contains two units: the Trial Unit, which represents indigent persons charged with violations of federal criminal statutes, and the Capitol Habeas Unit (CHU), which represents Tennessee death row inmates seeking federal habeas corpus relief from their capital convictions and death sentences. Our office currently employs 22 attorneys, 10 investigators, and 20 support staff.

Each unit sponsors a summer internship program (8-10 weeks) as well as semester externships for law school credit. We can accommodate students who can spend only part of their summer (4-5 weeks) in our office. Our interns perform legal research and writing for motions, memoranda, and briefs. We encourage interns to attend court hearings, trials, meetings with clients, and field investigation with our investigators. In addition, we hold in-house seminars on various aspects of criminal practice and organize a handful of social events throughout the summer to give interns an opportunity to network with our staff. We seek qualified applicants with strong research and writing skills, and an interest in indigent criminal defense or death penalty work. **We can accommodate both in-person and remote interns.**

Our internships are unpaid. **Parking in downtown Nashville is expensive! Unfortunately, while we can reimburse intern public transportation expenses, we cannot reimburse parking costs.** Students may wish to secure class credit for their work with us, or apply for any public interest fellowship or stipend that may be available through your law school.

**Applications should include: (1) cover letter; (2) resume; (3) writing sample; and (4) law school transcript (need not be official) all saved in one PDF.**

**Trial Unit Internship:** please send materials to Molly Rose Green ([molly\\_green@fd.org](mailto:molly_green@fd.org)).

**CHU Internship:** please send materials to David Fletcher ([david\\_fletcher@fd.org](mailto:david_fletcher@fd.org)).

Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as early as possible. Semester and summer offers are given on a rolling basis.



# Federal Public Defender - Northern District of Texas

## Dallas CHU Internship

CHU interns are involved in all aspects of habeas litigation, which may include legal research and writing, record review, investigation, meeting with expert witnesses, and client visitation. The CHU provides interns with formal training on a wide range of topics relevant to habeas practice, including Texas and federal capital habeas law, best research and writing practices, client relationships, and mitigation. All interns meet regularly as a group and individually with supervisors to discuss assignments and exchange feedback. We encourage interns to ask questions, get involved in cases, and take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to learn about capital habeas representation.

The CHU selects rising 3Ls. This is a remote internship with the opportunity to travel to the office in Dallas to meet with the teams and visit with clients. We seek candidates who have a strong interest in death penalty defense, strong research and writing skills, and a commitment to client-centered representation. The CHU is invested in recruiting interns from diverse backgrounds. We do not screen applicants based on law school. For more information about the internship program, visit: <https://txn.fd.org/internships>.

To apply, submit your cover letter, resume, unofficial transcript, and a short writing sample (5-10 pages) to Derek VerHagen ([derek\\_verhagen@fd.org](mailto:derek_verhagen@fd.org)) and Naomi Fenwick ([naomi\\_fenwick@fd.org](mailto:naomi_fenwick@fd.org)).

This is a remote and unpaid internship. The CHU will work with interns to obtain academic credit, funding through their law schools, or funding from other sources.

The CHU recruits interns year-round. There are around two interns during the fall and spring semesters and around four interns during the summer. Recruitment for Summer 2023 is ongoing and we strongly encourage interested students to apply before December 2022.

Interns who visit with incarcerated CHU clients will be required by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to undergo a background check.