



**Office of the Federal Public Defender
Middle District of Florida
Charles L. Pritchard, Jr.
Federal Public Defender**

**Vacancy Announcement #2026-005
Position Title: Assistant Federal Public Defender
Duty Station: Ocala, Florida**

**Posting: January 22, 2026
Closing Date: February 20, 2026
Permanent Full-Time**

The Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Florida is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender position in the Trial Unit at the Ocala office. The Trial Unit represents indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Court and provides appellate representation in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

The successful candidate must have a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense, excellent oral advocacy, and solid legal research and writing skills. The successful candidate should expect to defend and litigate federal criminal offenses involving guns, drugs, violent crimes, sex offenses, and complex conspiracies and fraud, among other crimes. The successful candidate must be prepared to zealously advocate for our clients who are often facing mandatory minimum and life sentences. Preference is given to applicants with criminal trial experience and preferably for more than five years.

The successful candidate must be an effective and thoughtful communicator with clients, colleagues, and staff. The successful candidate should be team-oriented and able to collaborate effectively with other attorneys, paralegals, investigators, staff, and experts.

The successful candidate must be a member in good standing of a state bar. Florida Bar membership is preferred but not required. Spanish language proficiency is preferred but not required.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications; salaries (including locality pay) range from **\$76,748 to \$197,100** in 2026. This is a full-time position with federal government employment benefits, including health and life insurance, retirement (subject to vesting), and Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit).

Conditions of Employment: Applicants must be U.S. citizens or eligible to work in and for the United States. Appointment to this position is contingent upon successful completion of an FBI name and fingerprint check. Employees of the Federal Public Defender are members of the judicial branch of government. Employees are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act; they are considered “at-will” and can be terminated with or without cause. If hired, the employee must live in the Ocala, Florida area. Currently, there is no office location and the employee will telework full-time (when not in court, visiting clients in jail, etc.). When GSA secures a new office, the employee will be expected to work in the office but may be eligible for telework. The employee must have a means of transportation (to court, the jail, etc.) as no government vehicle is available for the Ocala location. Additionally, the employee will be expected to travel occasionally to other branch offices (Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, Fort Myers) for training and other office requirements.

How to Apply: Qualified persons may apply by submitting a **letter of interest, resume, three professional references with email and phone contact information, and a recent writing sample (limited to 10 pages) in a single Adobe PDF format.** An email confirming receipt of the PDF will be sent to all applicants. **Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026.** Submissions that are incomplete or fail to follow the instructions above will not be considered.

Please send your submission to attention:

Office of the Federal Public Defender, Middle District of Florida
Evelyn Langston, Human Resources Manager
FLM_HumanResources@fd.org

Only those selected for an interview will receive further communication.

The FPDO provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The FPDO is a branch of the U.S. Courts, an **Equal Opportunity Employer**, and operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide indigent defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. We provide equal opportunity for all qualified people who desire to use their skills and abilities in our workplace on behalf of our clients, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or disability.