



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

Vacancy Announcement #2026-008

Position Title: Assistant Federal Public Defender (CHU)

Duty Station: Tampa, Florida

Posting: February 4, 2026

Closing Date: March 6, 2026

Permanent Full-Time

The Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Florida office is accepting applications for a full-time, Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) located in the Tampa Office. This position is for an experienced capital habeas lawyer. The dedicated team of attorneys, investigators, paralegals, and legal assistants in the CHU advocate for indigent prisoners under Florida death sentences. Our CHU staff has extensive and diverse experience in life, law, and the field of capital habeas litigation.

Duties: The scope of our work includes all stages of federal habeas corpus proceedings, as well as stay litigation, method of execution challenges, and executive clemency. CHU attorneys carry a full caseload, supervising teams of investigators, mitigation specialists, paralegals, and legal assistants. Regular responsibilities include working with clients; analyzing large case files and investigative materials; developing litigation strategies; drafting pleadings; conducting evidentiary hearings; presenting oral arguments; working with experts and other witnesses. This position will require work on holidays, evenings, and weekends, as the nature of the cases require. Frequent travel within the United States may also be required. Telework is available subject to supervisor's determination of office requirements.

Requirements: Applicants should have at least three years of capital habeas experience and demonstrable skill in written and oral advocacy. Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court in a state. Bar membership in Florida, or familiarity with Florida capital prosecutions is valued. The ability to communicate effectively and build relationships with clients, witnesses, colleagues, and court and agency personnel is essential. Experience in mental health forensics is very beneficial.

Selection Criteria: The successful applicant will demonstrate a commitment to indigent criminal defense and possess extraordinary communication skills with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court-appointed agency personnel. The successful applicant will be a creative thinker and a skilled collaborator.

Salary and Benefits: Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications; salaries (including locality pay) range from **\$76,748 to \$197,100** in 2026, dependent on experience. 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. They are considered “at-will” and can be terminated with or without cause. Employees are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act.

How to Apply: Qualified persons may apply by submitting a **letter of interest, resume, three professional references, 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, March 6, 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 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.