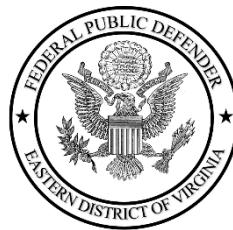


POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 26-01

Appellate Attorney | Alexandria, VA

Office of the Federal Public Defender

Eastern District of Virginia



The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia is accepting applications for an Appellate Assistant Federal Public Defender position in our Alexandria office. Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, the office provides legal representation to indigent defendants in federal criminal cases and related matters.

Appellate attorneys principally represent indigent clients in their federal appellate proceedings. Appellate attorneys carry a full caseload, representing clients in all stages of their appellate process, including briefing at all levels of the court system, oral advocacy, and in ancillary proceedings. Regular responsibilities include working with clients; digesting large records and case files; developing litigation strategies; researching the law; drafting pleadings and presenting oral arguments. This position may require work on holidays, evenings, and weekends, as the nature of assigned cases require.

Qualifications: The successful applicant must be a graduate from an accredited law school and licensed by the highest court of any state, the District of Columbia, the Supreme Court of the United States, or any other state bar, with good standing. Applicants should demonstrate a passion for and dedication to indigent defense in criminal cases, a commitment to client-centered representation, and the ability to work as part of a team. Additionally, they will have a clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in federal appellate practice and a reputation for integrity. The successful applicant will have strong legal research skills, the ability to analyze complex legal issues, and the ability to write clearly and concisely. Applicants must also possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, and court and agency personnel; possess strong oral and interpersonal skills; and be able to work independently and set priorities to meet critical deadlines. Applicants must also be authorized to work in the United States.

The physical demands of the position are those required to successfully perform the duties described above. Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform these essential functions. The Appellate Attorney will spend most of their time in an office environment consistent with our telework policy. The individual must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Travel within the state will be necessary and a valid driver's license is required.

Starting Salary and Benefits: Starting salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the applicant, within a range from \$87,815-\$197,100 per annum. The position offers federal employment benefits that include, in part, paid vacation, paid sick time, paid holidays, health insurance, life insurance, retirement plan and participation in the Thrift Savings Plan (401k). Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). Telework and flex scheduling consistent with court obligations and position duties are available to all employees.

How to Apply: To be considered for this position, email a single PDF containing a completed AO78 Judicial Branch Application, cover letter, resume, and a writing sample that is approximately 10 pages or less and contains legal analysis to FPDedva_hiring@fd.org. This position will remain open until filled with preference given to those who apply by March 6, 2026. You must include the job announcement number in the subject line. For required documents or additional information, visit the Employment section of <https://vae.fd.org>. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted; please do not contact the office.

The position is "at-will" employment in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive civil service. The final candidate will undergo an FBI background check and employment is conditional upon its completion. This position is subject to the availability of funds. All responses will remain confidential. More than one position may be filled from this announcement.