

Office of the Federal Public Defender District of Vermont

Federal Public Defender
Alejandro B. Fernandez

Assistant Federal Defenders
H. Samuel Ansell
Steven L. Barth
Charles N. Curlett, Jr.
Barclay T. Johnson
Emily C. Kenyon

Position Announcement – Assistant Federal Public Defender

The Federal Public Defender for the District of Vermont is looking for a trial attorney to join our small but vibrant team. The Office operates pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. §3006A, providing committed defense to each of our clients who cannot afford to hire counsel. We are in Burlington, VT, with the option of a hybrid work schedule. Funding is secure through September 30, 2026, with renewal subject to funding availability.

Position Description and Qualifications

Our team provides enthusiastic and expert defense to each of our clients. As a trial attorney, you will handle all stages of a federal criminal case, petitions alleging violations of supervised release, and ancillary matters as they arise.

The successful candidate will:

- Be dedicated to the representation of people who have been accused of crime and have the personal integrity to do so with distinction;
- Possess strong legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills;
- Have at least two years of criminal defense experience or other relevant experience as an attorney;
- Be able to articulate the role poverty, gender, and race play in policing and punishment;
- Embrace the diversity within our staff and client population;
- Be able to effectively collaborate and reflect in a group environment; and
- Be an attorney in good standing of any state bar and be a member of, or eligible for immediate admission to, the United States District Court for the District of Vermont. (See, Local Rules, District of Vermont, 83.1(a)).

Salary and Benefits

The salary for the Assistant Federal Public Defender will match one's qualifications within the guidelines set by the Judiciary Salary Scale for Assistant Federal Public Defenders, set to be equivalent to that of Assistant United States Attorneys. The position includes regular U.S. Government employment benefits—generous paid time off including annual and sick leave (13 days of each) and 11 federal holidays; health, dental, vision, and life insurance; a retirement system; opportunities to attend national and local trainings; and professional development and career advancement offerings. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). The position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The successful candidate will be subject to an FBI background check as a condition of employment.

How to Apply

Please email a cover letter, resume, and three references to vt_fpd@fd.org. Please include “2026-03 AFD Application” in the subject of the email. Applications must be received by May 8, 2026. Only complete applications will be considered. The Federal Public Defender for the District of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages folks of diverse and marginalized backgrounds to apply.