

KANSAS FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Position Announcement

Appellate Assistant Federal Public Defender

Application Deadline: March 10, 2026 (until filled)

The [Kansas](#) Federal Public Defender (FPD) is accepting applications for an Appellate Assistant Federal Public Defender in our Kansas City Office. It may also be possible to work out of the Topeka or Wichita offices (although Kansas City is the preferred location for this position). The Kansas FPD provides legal representation to indigent clients in federal criminal cases and related matters. The Office values hard work, diversity, teamwork, creativity, flexibility, and fairness.

The Job: There are three essential aspects to this position. **First**, appellate attorneys represent indigent clients in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Regular responsibilities include client communications; record review; legal research; litigation strategy and development; brief writing; and oral arguments. **Second**, appellate attorneys work closely with the trial attorneys within the office to assist with motion practice, trial preparation, jury instructions, and other similar tasks. **Third**, appellate attorneys train coworkers and other criminal defense attorneys and help those attorneys stay current on the law. This position may require occasional work on holidays, evenings, and weekends.

Requirements. The successful applicant must:

- Have a strong academic background;
- Have a law degree from an accredited law school;
- Be licensed to practice and in good standing in at least one State or Washington, D.C.;
- Have an interest in indigent defense and federal criminal law;
- Possess excellent research and writing skills;
- Possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, colleagues, and court and agency personnel;
- Possess strong oral advocacy and interpersonal skills;
- Work well in a team and collaborative environment.

The ideal candidate will preferably have federal appellate clerkship experience and/or experience litigating appeals, a history of training (or a willingness to train) other attorneys, and a demonstrated ability to communicate, collaborate, and work closely with others. Some travel (primarily to Denver) is required. Applicants must also be authorized to work in the United States (see [here](#)).

Salary and Benefits: The starting salary range depends on experience: up to \$145,000 for 7 years' experience; up to \$197,100 for at least 15 years' experience. Benefits include:

- 11 paid holidays
- Possible Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- Federal Employees Retirement System
- Thrift Savings Plan
- Health insurance (100+ options)
- Dental insurance (16 options)
- Vision insurance (10 options)
- Life insurance
- Flex Spending Accounts
- Commuter Benefit Program
- Long-term & short-term disability
- Long-term care insurance
- Transportation subsidy
- Employee Assistance Program
- WorkLife4You (living well)
- Sick leave
- Annual leave
- Nationwide leave transfer program
- Worker's comp
- Disability retirement
- Family and medical leave
- 12-weeks paid parental leave
- Infant at Work program
- Awards (cash, time-off)

How to Apply: Please send a letter of interest, resume, a writing sample, and three professional references in a *single pdf* document to **ksfpd@fd.org**. We may fill current and future positions from this position announcement. This position is subject to approval of funding. No phone inquiries.

The Kansas Federal Public Defender is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Diversity and dignity are central to our work. We hire without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, height, weight, veteran status, military obligations, or marital or parental status. We do not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment in any personnel decisions or employee interactions.