



**FEDERAL PUBLIC
DEFENDER**
Northern District of Ohio



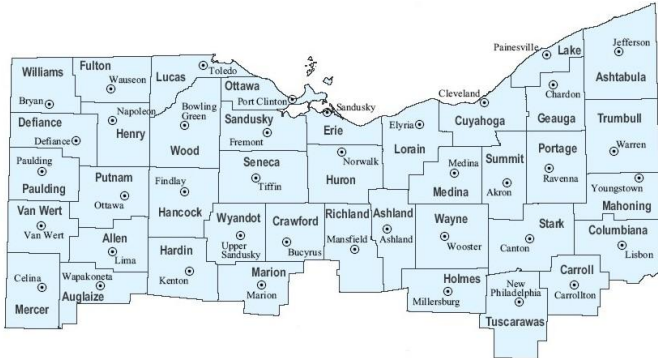
**TRADITIONAL UNIT
INVESTIGATOR
CLEVELAND, OHIO
\$77,977 - \$170,736**

Plus Excellent Benefits
Salary heavily dependent on prior experience
For Preferential Consideration Apply By
June 15, 2026
(First Review, Open Until Filled)



WHY APPLY?

This is an exciting opportunity for anyone with heart for public service and a background in criminal investigation or criminal investigative work to join a dedicated team of professionals in one of the most vibrant cities in the country, Cleveland Ohio! Located on the shores of Lake Erie, not only does Cleveland offer professional sports,

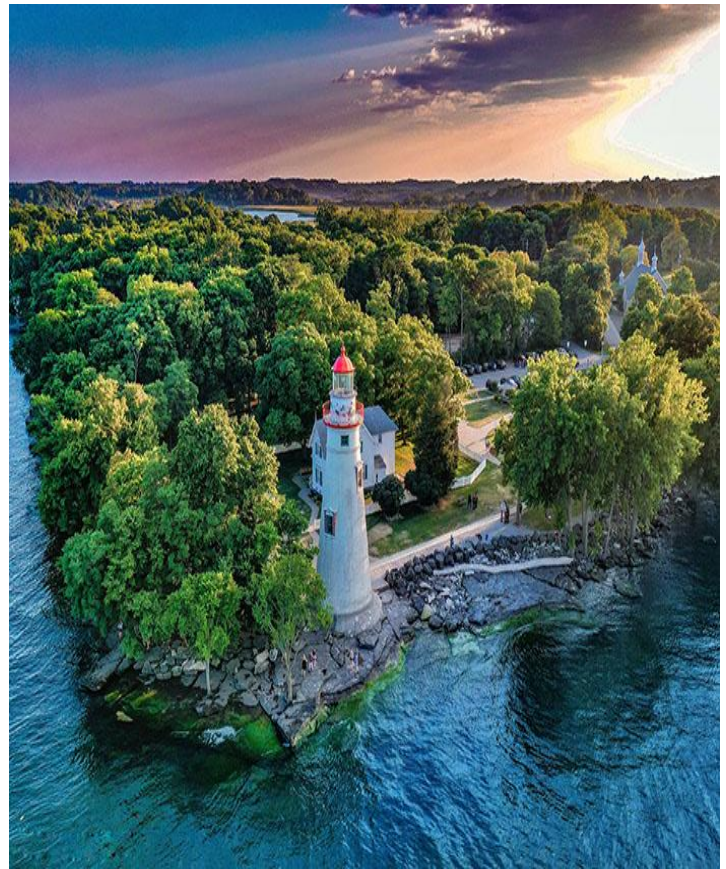


but also the second largest theater district in the country, a world-class art museum, a world-class orchestra, and a national park with hiking, biking, kayaking, and fishing opportunities. If you are an investigator interested in a rewarding career in public service, want to work as part of a team of professionals dedicated to a cause, hope to have a tangible impact on your community, and share our belief that no one should be defined by their worst day, this job is for you! We currently have one Traditional Unit Investigator position available in our Cleveland office. Anyone interested in public defense should therefore apply now!

WHAT WE DO

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio zealously represents and defends indigent citizens in order to preserve, protect, and defend the principle of equal justice for all.

We do this in accordance with the Criminal Justice Act. We provide representation to individuals in federal criminal cases or under federal criminal investigation who are financially unable to retain counsel.



WHO WE ARE

We are attorneys, paralegals, investigators, office administrators, information technology specialists, and mitigation specialists, dedicated to defending our fellow citizens by providing them with legal counsel. We are zealous advocates for our clients, providing independent trial defense services free from outside influence. We represent every client within the guidelines of the laws, consistent with our professional ethics, and in accordance with all applicable rules of practice. We work together as a team of legal professionals to uphold every person's right to be presumed innocent, and when required to a fair sentence. Our defense is vigorous at trial, sentencing, and on appeal. We advocate for humane sentences by showing judges and prosecutors that we represent people, not criminals.

We are committed to cultivating a culture of acceptance and connectedness that honors the diverse backgrounds of the people we represent. We value diversity and believe better legal representation occurs when members of the defense team have diverse backgrounds. We seek out and embrace the unique contributions that you can bring, including your culture, ethnicity, education, opinions, race, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran status, religion, disability, or economic status.



THE ORGANIZATION

Established in August of 1973, the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio operates four offices, including a main office in downtown Cleveland and branch offices in Akron, Youngstown, and Toledo. Our staff of 51 employees is split between the Trial Unit, performing traditional indigent criminal defense and appeals, and the Capital Habeas Unit, providing post-conviction representation to inmates sentenced to death. Caseloads range from petty offenses to multi-defendant drug conspiracies, sophisticated computer crimes, terrorism, and smuggling cases.

WHO YOU ARE

You must be a high school graduate or the equivalent with a preference for a college degree. A minimum of six years of experience in a field relating to the development of investigative skills is required, including: personal communication and interviews, the following of leads; collection and organization of facts; contacting and interviewing forensic experts; and preparation of reports. Included within the six years or more of total experience should be at least three years of specialized experience in criminal investigation or in a closely related field. A candidate should also have a commitment to providing high-quality criminal defense representation to indigent persons. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college may substitute for some experience requirements. Computer proficiency is required, as is a reliable personal vehicle since travel (with mileage reimbursement) is routinely necessary. Fluency in Spanish is a plus.

The position requires that the applicant possess a valid driver's license and automobile insurance. Significant travel is required, including night and weekend work. Above all, applicants must have a strong commitment to providing first-rate representational support to indigent persons in proceedings under federal criminal law. Employment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation and suitability determination,

including but not limited to an FBI fingerprint and name check.

RESPONSIBILITIES

If selected as Traditional Unit Investigator, you will work collaboratively with a team of other Investigators, Assistant Federal Public Defenders, Research and Writing Attorneys, Paralegals, and Mitigation Specialists. While training is available, the selected candidate will be expected to quickly assume a large caseload. We anticipate filling this position as soon as possible. In general, the ideal candidate will demonstrate capability and qualifications in the following areas:

- The initiative, judgement, and integrity to operate and think independently, while still working cooperatively as part of a team.
- Strong "people skills" and the ability to interact with persons from a variety of different cultures, economic backgrounds, and communities.
- The ability to analyze discovery and other case documentation to develop the direction and scope of an investigative plan.
- Writing skills to clearly articulate the results of investigative work and to present the results of investigative leads to attorneys and staff.
- Strong skills in locating records and other tangible documents, including family histories, genealogies, medical records, psychological records, court records, military records, etc.
- Experience with digital photography and videography.
- Experience with digital audio recording.
- Experience with scene sketching.
- Effective organizational skills in gathering, maintenance, and verification of records and investigative documents.
- Strong skills in locating and interviewing witnesses, coordinating the appearance of witnesses for hearings and trials, and serving subpoenas.
- Experience interviewing clients, fact witnesses, family members and potential mitigation witnesses.
- Finding, identifying, and working with expert witnesses from a variety of fields.
- A willingness to travel to perform assigned investigative tasks.
- Proficiency or a willingness to become proficient with electronic investigative tools such as TLOxp, Accurint, and LexisNexis.
- Proficiency with computer software for word processing and accessing databases and graphics to assist the attorney in developing demonstrative evidence for use in litigation.
- The ability to provide in-trial investigative support.
- Other duties as assigned.



NOTICE

Employees are considered at-will and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. This posting is subject to the availability of funds. This position offers responsibility, independence, dynamic teamwork, and generous federal benefits. The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment is provisional pending the successful completion of a required background check. You must be a United States citizen or eligible to work in the United States. You must possess a valid driver's license. Travel by a personal vehicle may be required. This position precludes the private practice of law.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- \$77,977 - \$170,736
(Dependent on education and years of relevant experience consistent with federal guidelines and regulations)
- Health & Life Insurance
- FERS Retirement
- Social Security
- Thrift Savings Plan
- Transit Subsidy Voucher
- Paid Parking
- 11 Federal Holidays
- Annual Leave and Sick Leave
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

HOW TO APPLY

All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **June 15, 2026** (first preferential review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes, and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To apply send a **single** Adobe .pdf document via email which includes a letter of interest, your resume, a completed AO78 Application for Judicial Employment, three (3) references to: **ohn_employment@fd.org**, subject line: **"2026-05 Traditional Unit Investigator"**.

