OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Western District of Virginia

Abingdon Office

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Announcement # 2026-07

The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia is seeking an attorney committed to zealous representation of the indigent accused—dedicated to protecting their constitutional interests while providing holistic representation. Our office mission requires that each employee embrace our core values: compassion, courage, competency, creativity, and collaboration.



As such, the ideal candidate will have all or most of the following skills: superior oral and written communication, jury trial experience, demonstrated ability to work with a team, ability to multitask and meet concrete deadlines, technological proficiency, and history of aggressive, but civil, representation on behalf of clients. Further, the ideal candidate will be client-centered, open-minded, creative, empathetic, a quick learner, enthusiastic, honest, hard-working, and respectful of others.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia provides legal representation to individuals charged with federal crimes who are financially unable to retain counsel. Assistant Federal Public Defenders provide direct representation of indigent persons charged with federal crimes in the Western District of Virginia, on appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and in post-conviction matters brought in federal court.



This position is for a licensed attorney to serve in our Abingdon office. Applicants must be an active member and in good standing with a State Bar, you do not need to be a member of the Virginia Bar. This will make you eligible for admission to the Western District of Virginia. Candidates that do not meet this criterion will not be considered for employment. Learn more about the Abingdon area here: https://visitabingdonvirginia.com/.

Salary is dependent on experience and qualifications. This position is full-time with federal salary and benefits. Employees of the Federal Public Defender are members of the judicial branch of government. They are considered at-will employees and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation. Salary payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer. Any offer made is subject to funding and more than one position may be filled from this announcement

To apply:



Please send a cover letter, resume, references and writing sample (in pdf format only) to: Rhonda Bowman, Administrative Officer Rhonda_Bowman@fd.org

Application Deadline: Priority will be given to applications received by December 1, 2026.

THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER