

# KANSAS FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

---

## Position Announcement

Assistant Federal Public Defender

Topeka, Kansas

Application Deadline: March 20, 2026 (until filled)

The [Kansas](#) Federal Public Defender (FPD) is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender in our Topeka Office. This is a felony trial attorney 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.

**About Us:** We work to keep people out of the criminal legal system through holistic representation, collaboration, and education. Our clients are people accused of federal crimes who cannot afford to hire private lawyers. We protect our clients' rights and center their humanity at every stage of the criminal case and beyond. We value hard work, diversity, teamwork, creativity, flexibility, and fairness.

**The Job:** Assistant Federal Public Defenders must meet individual client needs while managing full caseloads. AFPDs develop release plans; review discovery; research, write, and litigate motions; develop litigation strategy; work with experts; negotiate resolutions; serve as counsel in jury trials; navigate complex federal sentencing statutes and guidelines; and advocate for fair sentences and alternative outcomes. Some travel is required. Residency requirements are [here](#). Attorneys in our office may not engage in private practice.

**Requirements:** The successful applicant must:

- 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.;
- Be admitted (by the time of duty) to the US District Court for the District of Kansas;
- Possess excellent research, writing, and oral advocacy skills;
- Possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, colleagues, and court and agency personnel;
- Possess excellent technological and computer skills;
- Work well in a team and collaborative environment.
- Be committed to holistic defense of clients from diverse backgrounds.

Experience in federal criminal law, complex litigation, and jury trials is helpful. Spanish fluency is a plus. New attorneys with a passion or commitment to indigent criminal defense are encouraged to apply. And prior experience in adjacent fields will be considered.

**Salary and Benefits:** The starting salary range depends on experience: up to \$147,000 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.