

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
MIDDLE and WESTERN DISTRICTS OF LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE HEADQUARTERS
102 Versailles Boulevard, Suite 816
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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Assistant Federal Public Defender

Posted: January 7, 2026
Closing date: January 30, 2026

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender position to be stationed in the **LAFAYETTE OFFICE**, which is located at 102 Versailles Boulevard, Suite 816, Lafayette, LA 70501. The Office of the Federal Public Defender, which has staffed offices in Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Shreveport, operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide court-appointed defense services in federal criminal cases to individuals unable to afford counsel.

Requirements. An Assistant Federal Public Defender is an attorney position. Applicants must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice and in good standing before the highest court of a State; (2) licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana by the time of entrance on duty; and (3) licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana, or must become so licensed at the earliest opportunity after entrance on duty. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory FBI fingerprint check.

Duties. The Assistant Federal Public Defender in this position acts under the direction and supervision of the First Assistant of the Lafayette branch office. Duties include: case-related duties including court appearances and trials; legal research and writing, including appeals and petitions for writs of certiorari; review and analysis of discovery; and client communications. The position requires substantial travel. An Assistant Federal Public Defender may not engage in the private practice of law. The position requires the successful applicant to reside in the Lafayette area.

Selection Criteria. The successful applicant will have: an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in criminal defense practice; a demonstrated commitment to the representation of indigent accused persons; a reputation for personal and professional integrity; strong legal research, computer literacy, legal analysis and writing skills; an established capacity to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, office staff and court personnel; an established capacity to complete assignments timely; and an established capacity to work both independently and collaboratively. Preference will be given to applicants who are proficient in the Spanish language and/or who have 3+ years of prior criminal defense experience.

Salary and Benefits. The position is a full-time position with federal benefits and salary commensurate with professional attorney experience and qualifications. Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary dependent upon applicant's qualifications and professional experience. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit).

How to Apply. Qualified persons may apply by sending the following, in **one** PDF document, to dustin_talbot@fd.org: (1) letter of interest; (2) resume with two professional references familiar with applicant's legal skills; (3) recent writing sample that has not been edited by others; and (4) completed AO78 Application for Judicial Employment found here:
<https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/ao078.pdf>

This position is contingent on the availability of federal funding. Only those granted an interview will be contacted. No phone calls.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer.