FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (TRIAL)

Posted: November 12, 2026 Location: Peoria, IL
Starting Salary Range: $76,748 to $180,078 Duration: Permanent, full-time
Closing date: Open until filled, preference given to applications received by November 30, 2026

The Federal Public Defender for the Central District of Illinois is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Peoria Division. The Federal Public Defender's Office operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act 18 U.S.C. § 3006A to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters by appointment from the court to individuals unable to afford counsel. Our office is committed to providing the highest level of representation to our clients. The outside practice of law is prohibited.

Duties. As a trial Assistant Federal Public Defender, the successful applicant will lead a litigation team comprised of a paralegal, investigator, and mitigation specialist to provide each client with a thorough and zealous defense. The Assistant Federal Public Defender will appear in court, draft motions and legal memoranda, perform legal research, examine discovery, and meet with clients, family members, and witnesses. The selected candidate must be able to assume a caseload immediately and without significant supervision. The position requires regular travel to local detention facilities to visit detained clients and occasional travel to Chicago to appear before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Requirements. To qualify for this position, the applicant must:

- Be licensed by the highest court of a state, federal territory, or the District of Columbia.
- Be a member in good standing in all courts where admitted to practice.
- Have a minimum of three years' experience in criminal defense.
- Manage a full, varied caseload with charges such as firearms, drugs, fraud, sex offenses, and supervised release.
- Have a commitment to the zealous representation of indigent clients and a reputation for personal integrity.
- Communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, staff, the court, and other agency personnel.
- Possess excellent oral communication, research, and writing skills.
- Have a demonstrated ability to work with a team and coordinate the work of others.
- Be courteous, friendly, and professional with staff and clients.
- Have a valid driver's license and the ability to travel across the Central District of Illinois.

Spanish-language proficiency is desired but not required.

Salary and Benefits. Starting salary will be commensurate with experience. This position also offers full federal benefits, including:

- Federal Employees Retirement System
- Thrift Savings Plan with matching
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Dental and Vision insurance
- Annual leave
- Sick leave
- 11 paid holidays
- Paid Parental Leave
- Employee Assistance Program

Conditions of employment. Employees of the Federal Public Defender's Office are members of the judicial branch of government and are considered "at will" in the excepted service. Applicants must be United States Citizens or authorized to work in the United States. The successful candidate will be subject to a general background check as a condition of employment and may be subject to periodic updates. Direct deposit is required for payment of compensation to employees.

Application Information. Send the following, in **one** PDF document, to:

ilchr@fd.org

(1) letter of interest
(2) current and detailed resume
(3) three professional references familiar with applicant's legal skills
(4) recent writing sample that has not been edited by others
(5) completed AO78 Application for Judicial Employment

An email confirming receipt of the application materials will be sent to all applicants. Only those selected for interviews will receive further communication. ***No telephone inquiries please***. Costs associated with interviewing and relocation will not be reimbursed. All positions are subject to the availability of funds. For more information about our office, visit https://ilc.fd.org.

The Federal Public Defender for the Central District of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity Employer.