

**FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDER**  
**Eastern District of Michigan**  
**613 Abbott Street, Suite 500**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48226**  
**Telephone: (313) 967-5542 • Fax: (313) 962-0685**

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABLE POSITIONS**  
**Assistant Federal Defender**

The Federal Community Defender (FCD) of the Eastern District of Michigan invites applications for two (2) Assistant Federal Defender positions at our main office in Detroit.

**Who We Are**

We provide legal representation to individuals charged with committing federal crimes who cannot afford to hire an attorney. We represent the accused from arrest through trial and appeal, including the U.S. Supreme Court and federal habeas corpus review.

Our office consists of attorneys, legal assistants, paralegals, investigators, office administrators, mitigation specialists and information technology specialists who share a common goal – to represent our clients with compassion, courage, competency, creativity and collaboration. We work together to protect our clients' rights and champion their humanity at every stage of the criminal case. Our office seeks to attract and retain a high-performing and diverse workforce to serve our clients. We aim to foster an inclusive work environment that promotes commitment and fairness.

As the Federal Community Defender of the Eastern District of Michigan (FCDEDM), we handle cases at U.S. District Courthouses in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, Bay City and Port Huron. We have offices in Flint and Detroit. The FCDEDM is a non-profit corporation funded by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Our employees are not federal employees.

**The Job**

We are seeking two (2) full-time Assistant Federal Defenders (AFDs) for the Detroit office to represent clients charged with a variety of federal crimes, including drug, firearm, immigration, fraud offenses and more.

**Duties**

Responsibilities include managing a full caseload, including preparing pleadings, motions, and briefs; reviewing discovery documents; interviewing witnesses; developing litigation strategies; meeting with clients; working with experts; collaborating with CJA panel attorneys; and appearing on behalf of clients in court. Significant travel can be involved because some of our clients are incarcerated at jails throughout the Eastern District of Michigan, including Monroe County, Sanilac County, St. Clair County, Midland County and Livingston County. Assistant federal defenders may not engage in the private practice of law.

## **Requirements**

Candidates must be a law school graduate, a member in good standing of any state bar, and eligible for admission to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The candidate must have sufficient skills and experience to immediately defend serious criminal cases in federal court, from arraignment through appeal. Candidates must demonstrate an unfaltering desire to advocate aggressively on behalf of the underserved, marginalized, and economically disadvantaged.

The candidate should have excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with multidisciplinary defense teams (including administrative staff, paralegals, mitigation specialists, investigators and other attorneys) in a fast-paced and demanding environment.

At least three years of criminal trial experience is required (preferably federal), as well as superb legal research and writing skills, an in-depth knowledge of criminal law and procedure, experience with online legal research platforms such as Westlaw and LexisNexis, and a working command of Microsoft Office Suite programs, Adobe Acrobat, and similar software. Proficiency in Spanish is preferred but not required.

## **Salary and Benefits**

Salary is negotiable, commensurate with experience, and comparable to salaries paid by the U.S. Attorney's Office. We offer an excellent benefit package including life, accident/disability, health, vision and dental insurance, as well as a 403(b) retirement plan.

## **How To Apply**

Applicants should submit a resume, including three references, law school transcripts, one or two recent writing samples, and a cover letter with an explanation of interest in the desired position. All applications should be submitted electronically, **as one organized PDF**, to [mie\\_fdoresumes@fd.org](mailto:mie_fdoresumes@fd.org), or by mail to Federal Community Defender, Attn: Attorney Position, 613 Abbott Street, Suite 500, Detroit, MI 48226. Please – no calls regarding the status of your application.

**Position open until filled.** Position vacancies are contingent upon final approval and funding by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. FDCEDM is an Equal Opportunity Employer.