

FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDER

Eastern District of Michigan

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Detroit, Michigan 48226

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Investigator Position Announcement

Who We Are

We provide legal representation to persons 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 need a full-time investigator in the Detroit office. Significant travel can be involved, and 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.

Duties

Our investigators are responsible for identifying, locating, and interviewing witnesses, including defense witnesses, prosecution witnesses and expert witnesses. They develop written reports as well as identifying, collecting, and reviewing a vast array of records. Investigators must also actively participate in the organization and retrieval of these records. This position works collaboratively with paralegals, mitigation specialists, attorneys and other investigators. We expect all members of a case team to contribute to case strategy discussions.

Our investigators use computer hardware and software (Microsoft Word, Teams, Adobe Acrobat, Excel, etc.) to write reports, create databases, and produce graphics and videos. They need to be able to communicate openly and empathetically with our clients, the families of our clients, and case-related witnesses. Investigators photograph, video or otherwise document persons, places, and things for pretrial, trial and sentencing litigation. They investigate the backgrounds of clients and case-related witnesses for educational, medical, psychological, familial and criminal history related information. They may be called upon to provide sworn testimony and assess the testimony and credibility of other witnesses. Investigators help to create sentencing videos or written submissions meant to lessen the client's sentence.

Requirements

Candidates must be a high school graduate or equivalent and have past investigative experience, preferably in criminal defense. Applicants must possess substantial investigative skills to assist in a team approach to planning and developing litigation strategies and in investigating, analyzing, and developing fact and mitigation evidence. Candidates should possess excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships.

The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing and as a witness in court proceedings, is essential. This position requires the completion of work timely and thoroughly. Applicants should be self-directed and possess discretion. A level of comfort working closely with a diverse set of clients (often in jail or prison settings) and their families is essential. Applicants should have the capacity and flexibility to travel around and outside of our region, and a commitment to achieving case goals beyond standard 9 to 5 hours.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and reliable transportation. Candidate must be a U.S. Citizen and eligible to work in the United States.

Please note if you have any of the following skills, which are helpful but not required: Spanish fluency; experience with large data cases and eDiscovery software; experience with Cellebrite or Cellhawk; skills related to digital forensic evidence; specialized skills in accounting, healthcare billing procedures, taxes, audits, or financial crimes; and skills at navigating various types of social media.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is negotiable, commensurate with experience. We offer an excellent benefit package including life, accident/disability, health, vision and dental insurance, as well as a 403(b) pension plan.

To Apply

Submit an electronic PDF resume including cover letter, and three references to: mie_fdoresumes@fd.org. Please – no calls regarding the status of your application.

Application deadline is June 15, 2026.

FDCEDM is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity and inclusion in its work and with its staff.