

FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDER

Eastern District of Michigan

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NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Board of Directors of the Federal Community Defender of the Eastern District of Michigan (FCDEDM) is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. The FCDEDM provides court-appointed representation to indigent defendants unable to afford counsel in the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, and Bay City, Michigan. The office has two locations: the headquarters in Detroit, and a branch office in Flint, Michigan.

The FCDEDM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community defender organization funded 100% by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Employees of FCDEDM are not federal employees.

An Executive Director must be admitted to practice before the highest court of at least one state and be a member in good standing of every state Bar of which he/she is a member, or otherwise eligible to practice before the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan. A minimum of 10 years or more of legal practice experience with significant experience in federal criminal defense is required. The Executive Director must also have the ability to administer, supervise, train, and support a large diverse office staff, have fiscal management experience, and have a reputation for integrity and hard work. The Executive Director must be committed to the vigorous representation of those unable to afford counsel and the effective administration of the criminal justice system. Salary is comparable to salaries paid by U.S. Attorney's Office. Full benefit package, as well as retirement.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume (including three references), law school and undergraduate transcripts, and a recent writing sample to the following email address. Your email should include this subject line: "FCDEDM Executive Director Search".

Elisa A. Palizzi: EPalizzi@millercanfield.com

Application deadline is April 3, 2026. No phone calls. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Position vacancy contingent upon final approval and funding by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Dated: February 26, 2026