

FEDERAL CAPITAL TRIAL PROJECT – SEEKING RESOURCE COUNSEL

FCTP 26-02

The Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project (“FDPRCP” or “Project”) as part of the Federal Capital Trial Project seeks experienced capital defense attorneys to provide consulting, training, and related services on a national basis to defense counsel appointed to represent individuals charged with federal capital offenses, including CJA Panel Attorneys and counsel in Federal Defender Organizations; to the Defender Services Office of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts; and to the federal judiciary.

Resource Counsel

We are seeking experienced capital defense attorneys to serve as **Resource Counsel**, a key advisory role supporting federal capital defense teams across the country. Resource Counsel provide strategic guidance, legal analysis, and specialized consultation to teams handling federal capital cases.

We welcome attorneys with expertise in areas such as mental health and intellectual disability, jury selection, international components of capital cases, RICO prosecutions, faculty experience, and emerging issues including AI and digital investigations. Multicultural and bilingual attorneys are strongly encouraged to apply. While substantial capital experience is required, this role also offers a growth opportunity for highly skilled state capital practitioners interested in transitioning to federal capital practice.

Applicants must be committed to mentorship, collaboration, and elevating excellence in capital defense nationwide.

Key Responsibilities

- Advise federal capital defense teams on legal strategy, case development, and trial preparation.
- Provide consultation on complex issues including constitutional claims, mitigation, and sentencing advocacy.
- Assist in developing and delivering training programs and materials for capital defense practitioners.
- Support capital defense teams in navigating federal procedures, case law, and best practices in capital litigation.
- Monitor developments in capital jurisprudence and share updates, resources, and guidance with defense teams.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing across jurisdictions.
- Provide guidance in:
 - Litigating issues related to race, including identifying and developing race-based claims and applying the complex body of race-discrimination law; conducting research into implicit bias; and synthesizing race-related data.
 - Representing multicultural clients with cultural humility and a deep understanding of cultural considerations in capital cases.
 - Investigating and litigating intellectual disability claims.

- Investigating and litigating mental health issues.
- Addressing forensic science issues in capital litigation.
- Conducting data collection and pursuing proportionality or data-driven challenges to the death penalty.
- Researching and drafting capital appeals, post-conviction briefs, and pre-trial motions in capital trials.

Qualifications

- Juris Doctor (JD) from an accredited law school.
- Licensed attorney in good standing in at least one state.
- Minimum of 10 years of criminal defense experience, including substantial capital litigation experience.
- Demonstrated commitment to indigent defense and social justice.
- Proven ability to lead, mentor, and train multidisciplinary teams.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Experience with federal criminal practice preferred.
- Commitment to a respectful, collaborative, and diverse work environment.
- Resource Counsel must have the experience and skills necessary for consulting with appointed counsel, courts, and the Defender Services Office, and for assisting with Project-sponsored training and case consultation events.

Position Details

This is an hourly contract position and does not include employment rights or benefits. Contracts run from October 1 through September 30 each federal fiscal year. Hours vary depending on need, and renewal is assessed annually. The position does not include direct client representation. Extensive travel may be required.

Interested parties should send a resume, list of capital cases, and a cover letter detailing capital experience in a single pdf document to:

Kristina Leslie, Director of the Federal Capital Trial Project

CRC_Hiring@fd.org

Reference FCTP 26-02 in subject line

Applications accepted until positions are filled. More than one position may be filled from this announcement. Applications from individuals whose background and experience contribute to the diversity of the federal capital trial bar are highly encouraged.