

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Western District of Virginia
Charlottesville Division

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER Announcement # 2026-05

The [Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia](#) is seeking an attorney committed to zealous representation of the indigent accused—committed to protecting their constitutional interests while providing holistic representation. Our office mission requires that each employee embrace our core values: compassion, courage, competency, creativity, and collaboration.



Figure 1: [University of Virginia](#)

As such, the ideal candidate will have all or most of the following skills: superior oral and written communication, jury trial experience, demonstrated ability to work with a team, ability to multitask and meet concrete deadlines, technological proficiency, and history of aggressive, but civil, representation on behalf of clients. Further, the ideal candidate will be client-centered, open-minded, creative, empathetic, a quick learner, enthusiastic, honest, hard-working, and respectful of others.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia provides legal representation in criminal defense services to individuals charged with federal crimes who are financially unable to retain counsel. Assistant Federal Public Defenders provide direct representation of indigent persons charged with federal crimes in the Western District of Virginia, on appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and in post-conviction matters brought in federal court.

This position is for a licensed attorney to serve in our Charlottesville office. Three (3) years of Federal Court Experience is preferred. Applicants must be an active member and in good standing with a State Bar, **but do not need to be a member of the Virginia Bar**, and eligible for admission to the Western District of Virginia. Candidates that do not meet this criterion will not be considered for employment. Learn more about the Charlottesville area here: <https://www.visitcharlottesville.org/>.



Figure 2: [Historic Downtown Mall](#)

Salary is dependent on experience and qualifications. This position is full-time with federal salary and benefits. Employees of the Federal Public Defender are members of the judicial branch of government. They are considered at-will employees and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation. Salary payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer. Any offer made is subject to funding and more than one position may be filled from this announcement.

To apply:

Please send a cover letter, resume, and writing sample (in pdf format only) to: Rhonda Bowman, Administrative Officer, Rhonda_Bowman@fd.org

Application Deadline:

Priority will be given to applications received by June 16, 2026.



Figure 3: [John Paul Arena](#)

**THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**