



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER

Federal Defender Services of Idaho (FDSI) is accepting applications for the full-time position of Assistant Federal Defender in our Capital Habeas Unit (CHU). We represent clients on death row in the final stages of litigation, including requests for clemency. We enjoy unconditional commitment to a client focused approach. We strive to show our clients respect, compassion, and dignity. Each client is represented by a team comprised of at least two attorneys, at least one investigator, and at least one paralegal. We work closely with each other and foster a team approach which requires mutual respect for every member of the team, regardless of their role. All teams are supported by a well-established internal office wellness initiative.

ABOUT US

FDSI operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services to indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.

We have trial units in Boise and Pocatello and a Capital Habeas Unit in Boise. The Capital Habeas Unit is currently staffed by five attorneys, two mitigation specialists, three paralegals and support staff. FDSI is not an agency of the federal government, and our staff members are not federal employees. We are a not-for-profit Community Defender Organization. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(g)(2)(B).

JOB DESCRIPTION

Our CHU represents death-sentenced prisoners in their federal habeas corpus proceedings in Idaho and multiple other states. We represent clients in all stages of their federal court litigation, including clemency. Writing, research and organizational skills are imperative. Regular responsibilities include: working with clients; digesting large case files and investigative materials; developing litigation strategies; drafting pleadings; conducting evidentiary hearings; presenting oral arguments; working with experts and other witnesses; supervising teams of investigators, paralegals, assistant paralegals, and case experts.

REQUIREMENTS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Candidates for the position must have a commitment to indigent defense and defense of death-sentenced individuals. Capital defense representation at the trial, post-conviction or appellate level is required and the successful candidate will have a minimum of five years of experience in criminal defense practice in the trial, appellate or collateral proceedings area or a combination of these areas. Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited law school and an active member in good standing of a state

bar and qualified to be admitted to the District of Idaho Federal bar and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Admission to the Idaho State bar within 24 months of employment is expected.

This position requires frequent local and interstate travel and is not a remote telework position. You must also be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in the United States. Employment is contingent on passing a background check and satisfactory completion of a one-year probationary period. Staff are employed at-will and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. This position is not eligible for overtime pay. Employees may not engage in other full-time employment or litigation assistance for hire without written consent from the Executive Director.

TO APPLY

Submit an electronic PDF resume including cover letter, writing sample, and references to: <https://jobs.gusto.com/postings/federal-defender-services-of-idaho-inc-assistant-federal-defender-48fec831-dc06-4912-bdaf-72f52a8da59e>.

Applications without the four requirements above will not be considered.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Position is open until filled but preference will be given to applications received before May 31, 2026.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary will be commensurate with experience (Judicial Pay Scale, AD23-29; \$82,459 - \$197,100), health coverage, long term disability and life insurance, paid time off and federal holidays, and retirement plan.

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