

Vacancy Announcement

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE DISTRICT OF UTAH

Position Title: Assistant Federal Public Defender

Job Announcement Number: #2026-09

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

The Federal Public Defender for the District of Utah is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Federal Public Defender, an attorney position for our Salt Lake City office. The federal defender organization operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. §3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.

Job Description/Qualifications. This position is for a licensed attorney with a minimum of four years' experience to provide professional legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Court, District of Utah. Successful applicants must have a commitment to the representation of indigent individuals. This position will emphasize legal representation to individuals charged with complex fraud offenses. The successful candidate will be expected to build cases from the ground up by analyzing voluminous financial records, emails, and data sets. Additional responsibilities include managing complex discovery, deposition of witnesses, coordinating forensic and expert witnesses, drafting substantive legal motions; appearing on behalf of the client in court hearings and at other related proceedings; developing litigation strategies; meeting with clients, experts, witnesses, family members and others. Applicants must possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff and court and agency personnel. Spanish language ability preferred. Travel for investigation and training required. Federal public defender attorneys may not engage in the private practice of law.

Requirements. Applicants must be (1) a graduate of an accredited law school; (2) admitted to practice and in good standing before the highest court of a state; and (3) licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court by the time of entrance on duty. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in and for the United States.

Salary and Benefits. This is a full-time position with a comprehensive federal government benefits package that includes, in part, paid vacation, paid sick leave, paid holidays, life insurance, health insurance, dental and vision insurance and participation in the Federal Employees' Retirement System. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience and equivalent to salaries of Assistant U.S. Attorneys with similar qualifications and experience. Salary payable only by electronic funds transfer (direct deposit).

Conditions of Employment. Appointment to the position is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check and/or investigation including an FBI name and fingerprint check. Employees of the Federal Public Defender are members of the judicial branch of government; are considered 'at will' and can be terminated with or without cause.

Application Information. For consideration applicants must submit a letter of interest, a resume, a recent writing sample and three professional references. Submit application materials in a single PDF by email to:

Rachel Howard, Administrative Assistant
Subject Line: AFD #2026-09
utx_reception@fd.org

Open Period: September 16, 2026 to October 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. MST.

Position is subject to continued availability of funding. The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identify, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age, are encouraged to apply.