

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 26-17**  
**Assistant Federal Public Defender**  
**Capital Habeas Unit**  
**Office of the Federal Public Defender**  
**District of Arizona, Phoenix**

THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) to be stationed in Phoenix, Arizona, with the possibility of full-time remote telework. Attorneys in the CHU represent persons under a sentence of death in habeas corpus proceedings in the federal court. 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 by appointment from the court. The Capital Habeas Unit has staffed offices in Phoenix and Tucson.

**Requirements.** An assistant federal public defender must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school, (2) admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; and (3) able to obtain permission to practice in the U.S. District Court upon entrance on duty. This is not an entry-level position and applicants with capital litigation experience in state post-conviction or federal habeas corpus proceedings are preferred. Applicants must be client-centered, team-oriented, exhibit strong research and writing skills, and demonstrate a commitment to criminal defense for those facing the death penalty. Irregular hours and regular travel are often required.

**Selection Criteria.** The successful applicant will have an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in criminal defense practice, a commitment to the representation of indigent accused persons, and a reputation for personal integrity. Applicants must submit to a background security investigation requiring an FBI name check, IRS tax check, and to be fingerprinted and photographed. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication.

**Salary and Benefits.** The salary of an assistant federal public defender is commensurate with that of an assistant U.S. attorney with similar qualifications and experience. The position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The position does include regular Government employment benefits including health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). All positions are at will and are subject to the availability of funds.

**How to Apply.** Qualified persons may apply by sending via e-mail a letter of interest describing applicable experience, resume, and representative writing sample, not to exceed ten pages. References will be required from candidates selected for an interview. Send completed application to the Personnel Administrator, Federal Public Defender, District of Arizona, at [azx\\_hr@fd.org](mailto:azx_hr@fd.org). Announced: April 1, 2026; Closes: Open until filled. First review of the applications will begin on April 24, 2026.

**The Federal Public Defender is an equal-opportunity employer. All applicants, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age, are encouraged to apply.**