



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: APPELLATE ATTORNEY

Federal Defender Services of Idaho (FDSI) is accepting applications for the full-time position of Assistant Federal Defender, Appellate Attorney, in our Boise trial unit.

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 Boise trial unit is currently staffed by nine attorneys, three mitigation specialists, one investigator, two paralegals, an interpreter/paralegal, 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

This position is for a licensed attorney to provide professional legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho.

As an appellate attorney with FDSI, you will be responsible for pursuing appeals to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, petitions for rehearing and rehearing en banc in that court, and the occasional petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

Beyond appellate work, you will collaborate with trial attorneys as co-counsel in district court proceedings, developing issues and litigating complex motions, including substantive pretrial motions such as motions to dismiss and motions to suppress, trial briefing such as motions in limine and jury instructions, and sentencing matters such as objections to presentence reports and sentencing memoranda. Your caseload will also include our district's post-conviction docket at both the trial and appellate levels, including § 2255 and § 2241 habeas petitions, § 3582(c)(1)(A) sentence-reduction motions, and complex Rule 35 and Rule 36 motions. Additional opportunities include keeping our office and CJA panel current on legal developments, drafting amicus briefs in Ninth Circuit cases, and identifying and developing cutting-edge legal issues across our cases.

We are a tight-knit, collaborative office of dedicated defense lawyers and staff, and we are looking for someone equally committed to the zealous representation of people charged with serious crimes. The right candidate will bring the experience and legal intuition to identify and develop the issues worth fighting for. This position offers a

real opportunity to shape litigation strategy that advances federal criminal defense across the district and the Ninth Circuit.

REQUIREMENTS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

To apply, you 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 for the District of Idaho and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by the time of entrance on duty. Three years of experience is preferred, though we encourage applications from exceptional candidates whose background demonstrates strong appellate or research and writing skills.

This position requires local and interstate travel. 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-appellate-attorney-e739e895-8374-405a-8293-f38c1eaa7502>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Position is open until filled but preference will be given to applications received before April 30, 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.