



Office of the
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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JOSEPH F. DeBELDER
Federal Public Defender

LINDA McDERMOTT
CHU Chief

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

LEGAL INTERN – CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida is accepting applications for Legal Interns in the Capital Habeas Unit for Spring 2026, with an expected start date in February 2026. The CHU represents indigent, death-sentenced prisoners in federal habeas corpus proceedings.

Description: CHU Legal Interns will work exclusively on death penalty cases and related matters. This representation necessarily intersects with intellectual disability, mental health, and substance abuse issues, and interns can expect some cross-disciplinary projects and experience. Responsibilities include assisting attorneys, investigators, and mitigation specialists with all aspects of legal and factual development and case preparation.

Tasks include researching and writing on capital litigation issues, participating in case strategy sessions, requesting records and documents, drafting legal memoranda, compiling detailed chronologies of information, and examining and analyzing records. Strong research and writing ability, people skills, initiative, and a commitment to equal justice are required.

These positions may be paid *contingent on funding*. Salary is commensurate with experience, qualifications and education based on the current Judiciary Salary Plan. Spring internships must be completed in person and require a minimum of 20 hours/week. Consideration will be given to students who have demonstrated an interest in public service, human rights and/or social justice issues. Prior coursework in criminal law is preferred, but not necessary. Final candidates will be subject to a background check as required under the policy now in effect for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Application Process: To apply for a legal internship position, applications should email a resume, cover letter/statement of interest, and—if available—a writing sample not to exceed 12 pages **in a single .pdf** to FLN_Resumes@fd.org, and a copy to Katherine_Blair@fd.org. Please address the cover letter to Linda McDermott, CHU Chief.

Questions: If you have any questions, please feel free to email Katherine Blair, Assistant CHU Chief (Katherine_Blair@fd.org).

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida is an equal opportunity employer.
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