



FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

January 30, 2026

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of West Virginia is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender. The duty station is the staffed headquarters office at **Bridgeport, West Virginia**. The Federal Public Defender operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services to indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.

Requirements: An Assistant Federal Public Defender must be: (1) a U.S. citizen or eligible to be employed in the United States; (2) a graduate of an accredited law school, and have admission and good standing in a state bar; (3) licensed to practice law in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, or must become so licensed within one year after entrance on duty; and (4) licensed to practice law in the State of West Virginia, or must become so licensed within one year after entrance on duty.

Duties: Assistant Federal Public Defender duties include trials and court hearings, direct appeals to the circuit court, postconviction and witness representation, and representation in other matters such as supervised release hearings. The position requires travel for investigation, litigation, mitigation, and training. Federal Public Defender attorneys may not engage in the private practice of law.

Selection Criteria: The successful applicant must have a demonstrated capacity or aptitude for excellence in trial and appellate practice, a commitment to the representation of indigent accused persons, and sufficient experience to immediately undertake the defense of serious criminal cases in the United States courts. This position also requires excellent research skills; proficiency in computer-assisted legal research; word processing capability; and time management skills. This position also requires the ability to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court and agency personnel.

Wheeling

US Courthouse
1125 Chapline Street, Room 208
Wheeling, WV 26003
PHONE: (304) 233-1217
FAX: (304) 233-1242

Clarksburg

101 Cambridge Place
Bridgeport, WV 26330
PHONE: (304) 622-3823
FAX: (304) 622-4631

Martinsburg

Burke and Herbert
651 Foxcroft Ave, Suite 202
Martinsburg, WV 25401
PHONE: (304) 260-9421
FAX: (304) 260-3716

Conditions of Employment: The selected candidate will be subject to a background check or investigation, including an F.B.I. name and fingerprint check and an I.R.S. tax check, and subsequent favorable suitability determination for employment. Employees of the Federal Public Defender Office are in the excepted service, are considered “at-will” employees, and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act.

Salary and benefits: This is a full-time, permanent position, and federal salary and benefits apply. Salary commensurate with Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the Northern District of West Virginia based on years of legal experience. This position is subject to mandatory electronic transfer (direct deposit) of net pay. **Hiring is subject to the availability of funding.**

How to Apply: Qualified persons may apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, three professional references, law school and undergraduate transcripts, and one writing sample by U.S. mail to: Brian J. Kornbrath, Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender Office, 101 Cambridge Place, Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330.

Electronic submissions may be sent with the same materials listed above as one combined .pdf attachment to Brian_Kornbrath@fd.org (Please note underscore “_” symbol between first and last name).

Posting Date: Position announced January 30, 2026; open until filled with priority given to applications received by March 15, 2026. All responses will remain confidential. The Federal Public Defender Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application or interview process, please contact Administrative Officer Emily Southern at 304-622-3823.

No Telephone Inquiries Please