

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Research & Writing Attorney Position

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Delaware is accepting applications for a Research and Writing Attorney. The office 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 by court appointment.

Job Description: The Research and Writing Attorney provides advanced research, writing, and support services to Assistant Federal Public Defenders. Duties include: reviewing, analyzing, and summarizing discovery; researching complex legal issues; preparing initial drafts of motions, sentencing memoranda, jury instructions, briefs, and petitions; participating in fact and mitigation investigations and case meetings; assisting with all aspects of case preparation; assisting with appeals; and performing other case-related duties as assigned. The Research and Writing Attorney does not ordinarily sign pleadings or make independent court appearances but may appear in court as part of the trial team.

Requirements: Applicants must:

- be a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice and in good standing before the highest court of a State;
- have the ability to identify and analyze legal issues from lengthy and complex records;
- write clearly and concisely;
- possess excellent research skills and expertise in computer-assisted legal research; and
- have demonstrated experience analyzing complex federal criminal law and sentencing issues.

The position may require travel for case investigations, training, and regular day trips to visit clients housed in correctional facilities in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Federal Public Defender attorneys may not engage in the private practice of law.

Selection Criteria: Applicant must have: a demonstrated commitment to criminal defense; a reputation for personal and professional integrity; strong research, analysis, writing, and communication skills; computer proficiency; the ability to manage competing deadlines and to complete assignments timely; and the capacity to work independently and collaboratively.

Salary and Benefits: Salary for this position will be based upon experience and education in accordance with the Judicial Salary Plan of the United States Courts. Salary is payable only by direct deposit. Appointment is subject to a background investigation and fingerprint check.

How to Apply: Qualified applicants may apply by emailing a letter of interest, resume, three references, and a representative writing sample in PDF to:

Eleni Kousoulis
Federal Public Defender
Subject: Research and Writing Attorney Position
defpd@fd.org

Closing Date: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by October 15, 2026. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The position is contingent on the availability of funding. No phone calls or email inquiries.

The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer.