

Office of the
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Joseph F. DeBelder
Federal Public Defender



Tallahassee Office
227 N. Bronough Street,
Suite 4200, Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 942-8818 Fax (850) 942-8809

CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT
Investigation Internship/Clerk Announcement

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida is seeking **Investigative Interns** in the Capital Habeas Unit for **the Spring 2026 semester**. The CHU is located in Tallahassee, Florida. The CHU represents indigent, **death-sentenced prisoners** who are seeking post-conviction relief in federal court. The CHU provides legal representation in federal habeas corpus proceedings and related matters.

The Investigative Intern will work exclusively on **death penalty cases**. This representation necessarily intersects with intellectual disability, mental health, and substance abuse issues, and the intern can expect some cross-disciplinary projects and experience.

The Investigative Intern's responsibilities will include the following:

- Assist investigators and attorneys with factual development and case preparation.
- Help locate and gather background information on witnesses through records, social media, and other investigative tools.
- Request, organize, review, and summarize records and other case materials.
- Create timelines and witness charts.
- Attend case meetings and participate in case strategizing
- *Possibly* attend prison visits and/or witness interviews outside of the office—subject to scheduling, COVID protocols and supervisor approval.

The Investigative Intern is expected to work a minimum of **20 hours a week**. The Spring internship will be from **February 9th- May 1st, 2026**. This internship will be **in person**. Contingent upon funding, Investigation Intern positions are paid. Salary is commensurate with experience, qualifications and education based on the current Judiciary Salary Plan.

This internship is open to all undergraduate and graduate students who have a demonstrated interest in public service, human rights, and/or social justice issues. Strong research and writing ability, people skills, initiative, and a commitment to equal justice are required. This internship is also conditioned on a favorable **background check** as required by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

If interested in this internship opportunity, please email a **cover letter** and your **resume to in .pdf format** to **FLN_Resumes@fd.org** and **FLN_Intern_Applications@fd.org** with a copy to **andrea_tinoco@fd.org**. Please address the cover letter to Linda McDermott, CHU Chief. The email subject should be as follows: CHU Investigation Intern – Spring 2026. The internship will remain open until filled, but early applications are strongly encouraged. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

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

FY 2026-008