



## **Trial Unit Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Defender Program, Inc. (Atlanta, Georgia) - 2026**

The Atlanta Federal Defender Program is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Trial Unit Attorney to join our multidisciplinary team serving indigent persons charged with federal criminal offenses in the Northern District of Georgia.

[① Information for Applicants](#)

### **About Us**

The Federal Defender Program, Inc. (FDP) is a private, nonprofit law firm devoted to uplifting our clients and their causes through excellence in federal criminal defense. Guided by compassion and dedication, we provide exceptional, client-centered representation through a multidisciplinary, team-based approach. Our teams—attorneys, investigators, mitigation specialists, paralegals, social workers, and administrative professionals—work collaboratively to pursue the best possible outcomes for every client.

Our clients are indigent persons charged with federal criminal offenses in the Northern District of Georgia. FDP represents approximately 85% of these individuals, with the remaining clients served by members of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel. The Northern District of Georgia encompasses the Atlanta, Gainesville, Newnan, and Rome Divisions, each with its own courthouse. By far, the majority of Northern District of Georgia prosecutions take place in the Atlanta Division, where our office is also located.

The most common cases we handle involve drug offenses, firearms offenses, fraud and financial crimes, and immigration offenses, though our work spans the full range of federal criminal litigation—from investigation through trial, sentencing, appeal, and post-conviction proceedings. Our representation also includes some capital defense work in the Trial Unit and post-conviction capital work in the Capital Habeas Unit.

FDP is a nonprofit Georgia corporation fully funded by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. We are not a government agency, and our employees are not government employees.



## Our Commitment to an Inclusive Workplace

We believe that valuing and respecting all people—and honoring each other’s lived experiences—strengthens our ability to represent clients from every background. We know that excellent legal representation is supported by a diverse, collaborative, and inclusive workforce. FDP is committed to fostering a culture of acceptance and belonging that encourages creativity, productivity, and mutual respect. We value hard work, diversity, teamwork, creativity, flexibility, and fairness.

## About the Role

We seek a trial lawyer who recognizes the humanity in every client and values being part of a team committed to showing up for one another and for the people we serve.

Assistant Federal Defenders represent people facing serious charges in federal court and must possess excellent courtroom skills as well as elite legal research and writing abilities.

We handle federal trials, direct appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, petitions for writs of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court, habeas corpus proceedings, and related matters on behalf of our clients.

Representation includes coordinating legal, investigative, expert, and other services necessary to meet the demands of each case. The position requires travel for investigation, litigation, training, and sometimes meeting with out-of-district clients.

This is a full-time in-person position based in Atlanta, Georgia. After six months of employment, team members may be permitted to work remotely one day per week with supervisory approval.

**Assistant Federal Defenders may not engage in the private practice of law.**

## Work Environment

This is an in-person position. After six months of employment, team members may be permitted to work remotely one day per week with supervisory approval.

The position will require travel during work hours, as well as occasional overnight travel.

This position occasionally requires lifting or moving materials weighing up to 25 pounds.

## Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications include:

- A Juris Doctor degree.
- At least two years of criminal trial experience, civil litigation, and/or a judicial clerkship are highly preferred.
- Member in good standing of a state bar and prepared to seek admission to the State Bar of Georgia and the Northern District of Georgia promptly upon hire.

# Salary and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with experience and education and matches that of Assistant United States Attorneys with comparable experience.

Benefits: Paid vacation, paid sick time, paid holidays, health insurance, life insurance, and participation in our 401(k) plan.

## How to Apply

Interested applicants must answer the questions on the next two pages of this form and upload the required submissions as a single PDF file.

- **Apply Early:** Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.
- **Follow Instructions:** Applicants must follow all application instructions. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- **You will be contacted only if selected for an interview.**
- **Rolling Interviews:** Rolling interviews will be conducted, and this position will remain open until filled.
- **Background Check:** This is a position of trust. Employment may be contingent upon the successful completion of a background check.
- **Confidentiality:** All applications will be treated confidentially.

**Preference will be given to candidates who apply by February 28, 2026.**

## Important Notices

- **Equal Opportunity Employer:** FDP is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We hire without regard to race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, height, weight, veteran status, military obligations, marital or parental status, or any other protected characteristic.
- **Non-Tolerance for Discrimination and Harassment:** FDP does not tolerate discrimination or harassment in any personnel decisions or workplace interactions.
- **Nonprofit Employees:** Employees of the Federal Defender Program are not federal employees. The Federal Defender Program, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation funded by the Judiciary.
- **Drug-Free Workplace:** FDP is a drug-free workplace.
- **Funding Contingency:** This position is contingent upon the availability of federal funding.

[Apply Now >](#)