

# Federal Defender Program, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

## Seeking Research & Writing Attorney



## Trial Unit Research & Writing Attorney, Federal Defender Program, Atlanta, Georgia - (2026)

The Atlanta Federal Defender Program is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Research and Writing 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 with separate courthouses serving each. 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 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice**

We are committed to cultivating a culture of acceptance and connectedness that honors the diverse backgrounds of the people we represent. Our commitment to inclusion is integral to our commitment to a fair justice system. In recruiting members of our team, we welcome the full spectrum of humanity. We embrace the unique contributions our employees can bring to our office because of their backgrounds, social identities, and lived experiences. We know that the best legal representation occurs through a diverse, collaborative, and inclusive workforce. We value hard work, diversity, teamwork, creativity, flexibility, and fairness.



## **About the Role**

The Federal Defender Program, Inc. (FDP) seeks a Research & Writing Attorney to join our Trial Unit. This is an attorney position for lawyers who are energized by deep legal analysis, persuasive writing, and close collaboration with trial teams in active federal criminal litigation.

We envision the Research & Writing Attorney as embedded in the life of our cases and working alongside trial attorneys, investigators, mitigation specialists, and paralegals to help shape litigation strategy from the earliest stages of representation through hearings, trial, sentencing, and appeal.

This position is designed for attorneys who love the craft of legal writing and issue-spotting, and who want meaningful engagement with courtroom advocacy and real-time litigation.

## **What This Role Looks Like at FDP**

Working closely with Trial Unit attorneys, the Research & Writing Attorney will:

- Conduct advanced legal research on constitutional, evidentiary, forensic, sentencing, and procedural issues arising in active cases;
- Assist trial attorneys with all aspects of case preparation, including reviewing discovery, transcripts, exhibits, and records to identify legal and factual issues for litigation;
- Draft motions, briefs, legal memoranda, and initial post-hearing briefing following suppression hearings, evidentiary hearings, and other court proceedings;
- Consult with attorneys before and after hearings regarding legal strategy, issue preservation, and potential appellate considerations;
- Help assess when evidentiary hearings are appropriate and assist in preparing materials for presentation to the court;
- Participate in court proceedings, when appropriate, in support of litigation efforts; and
- Contribute to internal training, mentorship of interns, and development of office-wide legal resources.

## **Growth and Opportunity**

Attorneys in this role who demonstrate aptitude and interest in courtroom advocacy may, over time, be considered for promotion to a Trial Unit Attorney position.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify, an applicant should:

- Be an attorney in good standing with a state bar and eligible for admission to the Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia;
- Demonstrate strong legal research, writing, and analytical skills;
- Be able to analyze complex records and identify legal issues in both trial and appellate contexts;
- Work effectively within a multidisciplinary, team-based defense model; and
- Manage multiple projects with exceptional attention to detail and deadlines.

We will consider applications from exceptional graduating law students who plan to sit for a July bar exam.

The position requires that the applicant possess a valid driver's license, insurance, and own/operate a personal vehicle for business purposes (mileage is reimbursable). Occasional travel is required, including night and weekend work.

## Salary and Benefit Details

The starting salary will be based on experience and qualifications of the applicant, as well as the guidelines issued by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The position offers paid vacation, paid sick time, paid holidays, health insurance, life insurance, and participation in our 401k plan.

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## How to Apply

Interested applicants must apply online by providing the information requested on the subsequent pages of this form. Required uploads include a cover letter discussing your interest in the position, CV, a relevant writing sample such as a motion or brief, and contact information for two references. Please answer all questions to be considered. You will only hear from us if you are granted an interview.

## 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.

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