

**FEDERAL DEFENDER PROGRAM
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

September 21, 2026

Staff Attorney

The Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois is accepting applications for a full-time Staff Attorney position for its Chicago Office. The Office consists of 41 employees. We represent qualified persons throughout the Northern District of Illinois during all stages of a criminal proceeding, from initial appearance through all necessary appeals.

The applicant must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school; (2) admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; and (3) licensed to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by the time of entrance on the job. In addition, before entrance on the job, the applicant must be a full-time resident of the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Illinois.

Applicants must be team-oriented, exhibit strong trial advocacy as well as research and writing skills, and be committed to the representation of those unable to afford private counsel. The abilities to communicate effectively, to provide excellent client service, to coordinate multiple projects efficiently, and to utilize technology to enhance effectiveness are essential requirements for the job. Some within-district travel requiring several hours of driving is likely.

Qualified persons should **email** a cover letter, resume, writing sample and list of three references to Isela Antunez, Assistant to the Executive Director, at Isela_Antunez@fd.org. Applications accepted through October 21, 2026. No telephone inquiries or mailings please. Applicants must be available to start no later than January 15, 2027.

The Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and does not offer federal benefits. It does provide good health and dental insurance, disability insurance, paid vacation, sick days, a 401(k) plan, and flexible spending accounts for healthcare, child dependent care, and commuter programs. Salary is commensurate with experience and is payable by direct deposit only.

The Federal Defender Program is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age are encouraged to apply.