



## **Position Announcement: Assistant Federal Defender-Kansas City, Missouri**

### **Make an Essential Difference in the Heart of Missouri**

**Now Hiring:** Assistant Federal Defender—Kansas City Office

**Deadline:** TBD; position subject to available funding; more than one position may be filled from this posting

### **Join the Fight for Justice**

Are you a dedicated attorney with a passion for defending the Constitution and ensuring justice for all? The Federal Public Defender Office for the Western District of Missouri is seeking a zealous and committed **Assistant Federal Public Defender** to join our Kansas City team in our traditional/trial unit. This role offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact by providing high-quality legal representation to individuals charged with federal crimes who cannot afford counsel.

### **About Us**

The **Federal Public Defender Office** is committed to upholding the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of the right to counsel. Our Kansas City office serves as a vital part of this mission, representing clients in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri and in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. We pride ourselves on a collaborative environment where attorneys, investigators, and support staff work together with our clients to ensure justice is served.

### **Why Kansas City, Missouri?**

Kansas City sits on Missouri's western edge, straddling the border with Kansas. It's known for its barbecue, jazz heritage, and fountains. Downtown, the American Jazz Museum shares a building with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, with giant shuttlecocks out front, houses nearly 40,000 works of art, from ancient to contemporary collections.

### **Position Overview:**

- Represent clients in federal court hearings and related proceedings.
- Communicate effectively with courts, opposing counsel, probation officers, witnesses, clients, and their families.
- Maintain in-depth knowledge of criminal defense trial and appellate practices, case law, and federal sentencing guidelines.
- Prepare motions, briefs, and related pleadings primarily in magistrate and district court.
- Conduct thorough legal research using traditional and computer-assisted tools, analyzing statutes, case law, regulations, and sentencing guidelines.
- Determine relevant legal issues and prepare evidence for hearings.
- Prepare cases by prioritizing issues, analyzing case complexities, and anticipating roadblocks to success.
- Continue developing strong written and verbal communication skills for effective advocacy and documentation.
- Perform duties as assigned to support the mission of the Federal Public Defender's Office.

**Qualifications:**

- Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from an accredited law school.
- Admission to practice in federal court (or ability to obtain admission promptly).
- Strong legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills.
- Ability to manage complex cases and work collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team.
- Exceptional oral and written advocacy skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to indigent defense and public service.
- Must be eligible to practice in federal court and a U.S. citizen or a green card holder planning to apply for citizenship

**Compensation & Available Benefits**

- **\$78,000-\$197,100**(commensurate with experience)
- Robust federal benefits package including:
  - Health, dental, and vision insurance
  - Employer Retirement Plan
  - Paid federal holidays, annual and sick leave
  - Access to wellness resources and confidential support
  - Access to continuing legal education and training opportunities

**Citizenship:**

Must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident in the process of applying for citizenship.

<https://www.uscourts.gov/careers/search-judiciary-jobs/citizenship-requirements-employment>

**Notice:**

The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and are committed to a policy of non-discrimination in all personnel actions. We encourage application from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences.

**Background Checks:** The selected candidate will be subject to a background check or investigation as a condition of employment. Employment will be considered provisional until a satisfactory background check and favorable suitability determination is confirmed. The individual hired to perform the duties for this position may be subject to further background investigations when necessary.

**How to Apply**

Interested applicants should submit a **cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references in a single PDF** to: [MOW\\_jobs2@fd.org](mailto:MOW_jobs2@fd.org), Early applications are encouraged. No phone calls, please.