

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEFENDER
District of Maine

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2026-01

ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (AFPD)-Bangor, Maine

Posted: 2/20/2026

Closes: 3/23/2026

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maine is accepting applications for the **full-time position of Assistant Federal Public Defender in Bangor, Maine**. The position primarily involves legal representation of those charged with criminal offenses who cannot afford private counsel in the United States District Court for the District of Maine.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Representing indigent defendants charged with federal crimes. The work includes: managing a caseload with cases at varying stages of litigation; preparing pleadings, briefs and motions; appearing on behalf of clients in court hearings and other related proceedings; developing litigation and sentencing strategies; meeting with clients, experts, witnesses, and family members; and other duties, including some supervisory and/or management duties, as assigned. You will handle those appeals generated by clients you represent. You will assist in continuing education and training of the CJA panel and participate in a variety of committees and programs related to indigent federal defense.

This position requires a person who operates independently and as part of a small team. You must be prepared to handle a full case load with limited supervision. You will be the only Assistant Federal Defender in the Bangor office, supported by the Defender, a paralegal, and a part-time investigator. The successful candidate will have strong analytical and writing skills and a persuasive oral style; the ability to organize, prepare for and try major cases, produce substantial written work, and understand the complexities of federal criminal law and sentencing mitigation. Federal trial and sentencing experience is important. You will be in court frequently. You must be able to research, draft, format, and file electronically. Proficiency using major office and legal software and hardware is required. You must have the experience and background to assume a full caseload quickly as you will immediately begin representation of those facing serious felony charges. We are a small office and everyone shares in all needed tasks.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited law school, and a member in good standing of a state bar; membership in the Maine bar encouraged, but not required.
- Be licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine and before the First Circuit Court of Appeals, or must become so licensed before the job begins.
- Have at least seven years of criminal trial experience, with significant federal criminal trial and appellate experience preferred.
- Demonstrate a commitment to indigent criminal defense.
- Possess a valid driver's license and personal vehicle allowing you to engage in in field investigation and visit detained clients up to 100 miles away.
- Subject to a satisfactory background examination, including FBI fingerprint and IRS tax check.
- Federal Public Defender attorneys may not engage in the private practice of law.

We seek an experienced, professional, highly motivated and well-organized trial lawyer, with empathy, a commitment to the highest level of client representation and demonstrated federal courtroom experience and some supervisory and/or management level experience. A sense of humor is helpful.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary ranges from \$102,287-\$180,078. Salary is heavily dependent on prior experience and qualifications. The position includes regular U.S. Government employment benefits—generous paid time off including annual and sick leave and 11 federal holidays; health, dental, vision, and life insurance; a retirement system; opportunities to attend national and local trainings; and other professional development opportunities. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). The position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. Employment subject to continued position funding.

TO APPLY

Qualified applicants should apply by submitting:

- A cover letter explaining why you are interested in this specific job, any connection to Maine, and how you view your experience as preparing you for this job,
- A current resume,
- A list of three references with their contact information. Please provide references we can speak candidly with (not a Judge), and
- A writing sample. The preferred sample is under 10 pages and either a portion of a legal filing, or a case or client explanatory letter.
- Please combine all four items into one PDF formatted file named beginning with your last name; “lastnameMEAFDapp.pdf” and submit to infomaine@fd.org.

The Office of the Federal Defender is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage all qualified applicants - without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law - to apply. This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.