

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 26-01
Assistant Federal Public Defender (Omaha)
Federal Public Defender for the District of Nebraska

The Federal Public Defender for the District of Nebraska is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) in our Omaha office. This is a full-time position for a team player who wants to fight hard on behalf of the indigent accused.

Position Overview:

Assistant Federal Public Defenders defend indigent persons accused of federal crimes. AFPDs must protect the rights of their clients and zealously advocate for the best possible outcome, both in court and in writing. AFPDs develop release plans, review discovery, research the law, write briefs and motions, develop litigation strategies, consult with experts, visit and advise clients (many of whom are detained in jails and prisons), negotiate favorable resolutions, try jury trials, navigate complex federal sentencing guidelines and statutes, advocate for fair sentences and alternative outcomes, and appeal their losses to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Some travel – for investigation, litigation, and training – will be required. AFPDs must have unwavering integrity and be willing to adhere to a Code of Conduct.

Qualifications/Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Have graduated from an accredited law school with a Juris Doctor degree;
- Be admitted to practice before, and in good standing with, the highest court of a state;
- Undergo and pass a background investigation, including but not limited to an FBI name and fingerprint check and an IRS tax check; and
- Be licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska by the time of entrance on duty.

This is not an entry level position. Successful applicants will:

- Have criminal-law experience, including trial and appellate practice, preferably in federal court;
- Have excellent courtroom skills and strong research-and-writing abilities;
- Be proficient at: engaging and counseling clients, digesting large case files and investigative materials, developing litigation strategies, drafting pleadings, conducting evidentiary hearings and trials, working with experts and other witnesses, and supervising a defense team.

Spanish fluency and language skills are valued but not required.

Salary and Benefits:

The AFPD starting salary range is \$77,515 up to \$181,878 for nine years or more experience. The position offers federal employment benefits, including participation in: health- and life-insurance programs, the Federal Employees Retirement System (pension), and Thrift Saving Plan (401K). This position is at-will, excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of Civil Service. Electronic Funds Transfer (Direct Deposit) is required for payment compensation for employees. The position is subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should send the following documents *as a single PDF file* to Martin Adams, Administrative Officer, at martin_adams@fd.org:

- A cover letter mentioning Position Announcement No. 26-01;
- A current resume; and
- Three references (including contact information).

No phone calls, please. **The Federal Public Defender is an equal-opportunity employer.** Application deadline is **March 1, 2026.**