

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

**Research and Writing Attorney – Trial Unit
Pensacola**



Pensacola Beach, FL

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida is seeking applications for a Research and Writing Specialist for the office's Trial Unit. The position will be based in our Pensacola Office.

Pensacola is a hidden gem on the Gulf of Mexico. It is home to beautiful white-sand beaches and a vibrant downtown. It is home to brilliant, emerald green water, world

class white-sand beaches and a vibrant downtown. Established in 1559, Pensacola is one of the oldest cities in America and is steeped in history and culture - to include the Pensacola Opera, the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, Ballet Pensacola, the historic Saenger Theatre, and the accredited Pensacola Museum of Art. Pensacola has a food and arts calendar filled with annual festivals such as the Foo Foo Festival, the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival, Pensacon/ComicCon, Pensacola Seafood Festival, Pensacola Crawfish Festival, the Fiesta of Five Flags and holiday themed parades and celebrations to include Mardi Gras. The legendary Blue Angels call Pensacola home and are housed at Naval Air Station Pensacola, often called the "Cradle of Naval Aviation." The area is surrounded by gorgeous state and national parks, to include the Gulf Islands National Seashore, the 8th most visited park in 2022 for recreation in the National Park Service. One of the best sailing venues in the world, Pensacola is the new permanent home of American Magic, the American yacht racing team formed to compete in the 37th America's Cup located in Barcelona, Spain. The area has a rich sports history, and has its own minor league baseball team, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, its own professional ice hockey team, the Pensacola Ice Flyers, and enjoys collegiate sporting action from the University of West Florida and Pensacola State College. Aside from all its amenities, Pensacola is truly "the Upside of Florida" and offers a quality of life that is not available in larger cities - the cost of living is 65% lower than San Francisco, 14% lower than New Orleans, and 39% lower than Washington, D.C., per the Forbes.com Cost of Living Calculator.

The Research and Writing Specialist is an attorney position that provides advanced legal research and writing services to the FPD and Trial Unit AFPDs, assists in preparation of motions and legal memoranda, and examines complex and diverse records and discovery. The Research and Writing Specialist does not ordinarily sign pleadings or make court appearances. Candidates must be able to analyze legal issues from lengthy, complex records, write clearly and concisely, and have strong computer skills. Prior legal writing experience, law review membership, or a judicial law clerkship are desirable. Federal court experience and membership in The Florida Bar are advantages, but not prerequisites. We will consider applications from exceptional 2026 graduating 3Ls who plan to take a bar exam in July 2026. Membership in, or at start date immediate eligibility for membership to, the Bar for the United States Northern District of Florida is a prerequisite. Fluency in Spanish will also be an advantage although not a requirement.

Salary will be determined on the Judiciary Salary Plan and based on qualifications and experience, consistent with federal rules and regulations. Position includes federal benefits, with health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Employment is conditioned upon a favorable background check. Position is subject to funding.

The Federal Public Defender 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. Reasonable accommodations are available to applicants with disabilities.

Qualified applicants should apply by forwarding in PDF format a short letter of interest, a resume, three references, and a representative writing sample to: FLN_Resumes@fd.org. Please note “Attorney position - Pensacola” in the subject of email. Position will remain open until filled.



Pensacola - Home of the Blue Angels
Vacancy Announcement FY26-004