

OFFICE OF THE
FEDERAL DEFENDER
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ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDERS
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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER

Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender, Inc., is soliciting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Defender. Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act (18 U.S.C. §3006A), Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender, Inc., is the community defender organization (CDO) for the Western District of Kentucky providing federal criminal trial and appellate representation to indigent defendants in the District Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States. Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation authorized and funded by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and governed by a board of directors appointed by the Judges of the District Court. It is not an agency of the federal government, and staff members are not federal employees.

Assistant Federal Defenders manage a full caseload, including trials, motion practice, preparing pleadings, reviewing discovery, coordinating case investigation, developing litigation strategies, meeting with clients, working with experts, and appearing in court as required. Travel to all divisions of the Court in Louisville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, Paducah, and Fort Knox, as well as all remote detention facilities is required. Applicants must have a law degree from an accredited law school; be an active member in good standing of a state bar; and licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. Applicants must have at least three years of criminal trial experience with strong writing and advocacy skills, knowledge of federal criminal trial practice and federal sentencing, a reputation for personal and professional integrity, a commitment to representation of indigent defendants, and an ability to work well in a team environment. Applicants must also possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court and agency personnel. Applicants must have a driver's license and appropriate motor vehicle. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or eligible to work in the United States. Employment will require a favorable background check. Lastly, Assistant Federal Defenders may not engage in the private practice of law.

This is a full-time position with salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience. It is anticipated that the new Assistant Federal Defender will begin work on or before January 1, 2027, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Offers are contingent upon both the appropriation of funding and approval by the funding source.

Applications must be postmarked by **October 30, 2026**. To apply, send a cover letter, résumé, references, and recent writing sample to:

Cheryl Judd, Assistant Administrative Officer
Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender, Inc.
629 South Fourth Avenue, Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40202

No telephone, email, or faxed inquiries or applications will be accepted or considered

Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. Section 3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.