



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Assistant Federal Defender (AFD)
District of Hawai‘i

Who We Are: The Federal Public Defender for the District of Hawai‘i provides legal representation to persons charged with committing federal crimes who cannot afford to hire a private attorney. Based in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, we are attorneys, investigators, paralegals and office administrators. We are client-centered, compassionate, and have a collaborative team approach to cases that ensures excellent and zealous representation. We work together to uphold every person’s constitutional rights to be presumed innocent, to have a fair trial, and, if convicted, to receive a just sentence. More information can be found on our website: <https://hi.fd.org/>

We welcome and value individuals of any race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, age, veteran status, and other status protected by law. We are an equal opportunity employer. The Federal Public Defender’s office operates under the judiciary branch of the government.

The Opportunity: We are seeking a trial attorney to join our office. You will represent clients accused of federal crimes through all phases of litigation – from pre-indictment consultations through appeal. Sentencing mitigation is also a large part of our work. Your caseload will be comprised of a diverse range of crimes, including drug trafficking, violent crimes, fraud, firearm, and other federal charges. You will work closely with clients, our investigators, paralegal, legal assistants, experts, and of course, fellow attorneys.

Who You Are:

- A trial attorney who values collaboration, and is committed to our mission and zealous, yet compassionate and ethical, client advocacy.
- Ideally, have a minimum of three years of legal experience as a trial attorney, with a focus on criminal defense, and jury trial experience in either federal or state court. Experience in handling felonies is preferred.
- Be a licensed and active member in good standing of the Hawai‘i State Bar and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; or upon hire, gain admission to practice in Hawai‘i.

- Courtroom experience including suppression hearings, trials, oral arguments, and sentencing hearings.
- Excellent legal research and legal writing skills.
- A demonstrated ability to identify, understand and manage complex factual and legal issues.
- Be able to communicate effectively and compassionately with clients who come from diverse backgrounds.
- A self-starter comfortable working both independently and collaboratively, and who can communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court and agency personnel as part of their employment.
- Comfortable with Microsoft Systems, Westlaw, Adobe Acrobat, and discovery management software.

Salary and Benefits: The salary range for this position is commensurate with experience on a scale equivalent to that of Assistant United States Attorneys.

As a trial attorney, telework is subordinate to client needs, court coverage, and team responsibilities. However, after a six-month onboarding process, limited telework may be available in accordance with office policy. Telework is limited to two days per bi-weekly pay period.

Our office also offers excellent benefits, including health, vision, dental and life insurance. There is paid vacation and sick time, eleven paid federal holidays, and most state holidays. The retirement plan is the Thrift Savings Retirement Plan with up to 5% matching contributions. There is group life insurance, flexible spending accounts, paid parking or a transit subsidy program, and legal training.

Proof of United States citizenship or other employment eligibility required. Relocation costs will not be paid.

How to Apply: Qualified persons are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible (first preferential review; the position will remain open until filled). To apply, send a *single* .pdf document via email to lynelle_oshita@fd.org with the subject line, "AFD Application." The single .pdf document should be named, "Your Last Name, First Name," (e.g., Smith, Mary) and contain the following:

- A plain face sheet with your last name, first name, and current employer or employment status. This should be centered on the page and in size 40 font;
- A brief cover letter;
- Your resume; and
- Three references (references will not be contacted until applicant is advised).

Accurate compliance with these application instructions is a factor expressly considered in the evaluation of the applicant. Due to the volume of responses expected, only those invited to interview will be contacted. Local candidates will be interviewed in-person in Honolulu. Non-local candidates will have the option of being interviewed via Zoom.

No inquiries, telephone or otherwise, please. Subject to availability of funding.