

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 26-01
ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON, SC
FULL-TIME POSITION

The Federal Public Defender, District of South Carolina, is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender, based in the Charleston Office. The Federal Public Defender organization operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.



An aerial view of downtown Charleston with the Cooper River Bridge in the background. (Getty images)

About the office. Established in 1977, the office provides representation to indigent individuals charged with federal criminal offenses in each of the district's four Divisions: Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, and Florence.

Requirements. Applicants must be a law school graduate, a member in good standing of any state bar (*i.e.*, licensed to practice law before the highest court of any state in the United States or the District of Columbia), and eligible for admission to the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The applicant must have the capacity, within several months of hiring, to develop sufficient skills to defend serious criminal cases in federal court, from arraignment through post-conviction motions and, occasionally, on appeal. The position may require travel throughout the district, some overnight travel, out-of-district training, irregular work hours, or working weekends and holidays when necessary. Applicants must have reliable transportation, a valid driver's license, and proof of insurance. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory background investigation, including an IRS tax check and an FBI name and fingerprint check.

Duties. The Assistant Federal Public Defender represents clients charged with serious criminal offenses and clients involved in other matters covered under the Criminal Justice Act. The work is fast paced, demanding, and rewarding. Federal Public Defender attorneys may not engage in the private practice of law.

Selection Criteria. The successful applicant must have a capacity for excellence in criminal defense practice, a commitment to the representation of the underserved, the marginalized, and the indigent, and a reputation for personal and professional integrity. Applicants must also communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court personnel as part of employment. All qualified attorneys are encouraged to apply without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disabling condition.

Salary and Starting Date. This is a position with growth potential and is subject to the availability of funds. Salary is by direct deposit. The starting salary range is \$76,748 – \$180,078. The salary cap is \$197,100. The expected starting date is as soon as possible and not later than June 1, 2026. Excellent federal benefits.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, a resume, including three references, and a writing sample in one organized PDF to jonathan_freeman@fd.org. Applicants may submit a law school transcript.



A view of Battery Park. (<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1255513>)

About South Carolina. Home to Dawn Staley and the 2024 NCAA Champions, the South Carolina Gamecocks women's college basketball team, applicants can learn more about South Carolina here: [Visiting SC](#) and [Moving to SC](#).

About Charleston. Beaches, watersports, excellent climate and more, learn about Charleston's outdoor activities, rich culture, architecture, restaurants from residents: [Local Guides | Charleston, SC](#).

Open until filled

More than one position may be filled

Please contact Federal Public Defender Bill Nettles with questions at Bill_Nettles@fd.org.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER