



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Address: 1901 Assembly St., Ste. 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Website: sc.fd.org/

Position: Assistant Federal Public Defender
(Full-Time, Permanent)

Vacancy: 26-05

Duty Station: Charleston, Columbia, Florence, or
Greenville

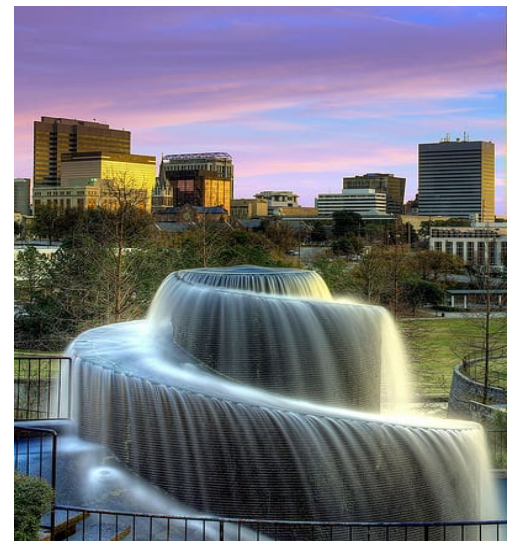
Salary: \$76,748 - \$197,100

Primary Job Duties

The appellate attorney primarily prepares briefs, motions, and petitions for rehearing or certiorari in the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. The position includes presenting oral arguments in the Fourth Circuit and may involve post-conviction work in the district court. Additionally, the appellate attorney provides research and writing support to trial attorneys in district court.

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, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States.
- The position may require travel throughout the district, to the court of appeals in Richmond, VA, 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. Further investigation may be required.
- Attorneys in this office may not engage in the private practice of law.



How to Apply

Please submit a completed [AO78](#) Judicial Branch Application, cover letter, resume, and a writing sample that is approximately 10 pages or less and contains legal analysis as a **single PDF attachment** to:

SCX_Employment@fd.org.

Applicants also may submit a law school transcript. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted; please do not contact the office.

Application Deadlines:

Open until filled. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. The expected start date is not earlier than January 11, 2027.

Office Overview

The Federal Public Defender for the District of South Carolina consists of four offices, the main office in Columbia and branch offices in Charleston, Florence, and Greenville. Our clients come from all across South Carolina and are served by a staff of 40, including attorneys, investigators, paralegals, and other support staff.

Selection Criteria

The successful applicant will have strong legal research and word processing skills, the ability to analyze legal issues from complex records and write clearly and concisely. Applicants should also have an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in criminal defense practice, a commitment to the representation of indigent accused persons, and a reputation for integrity. Applicants must be able to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, colleagues, and court and agency personnel. Applicants must be able to work with a team when required and possess skills for collaboration, strategic litigation, compassionate representation, and unique approaches to the issues affecting our clients. Appellate writing experience or experience in handling federal criminal cases is preferred. All qualified attorneys are encouraged to apply without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disabling condition.

Salary and Benefits

The salary of an assistant federal public defender is commensurate with that of an assistant U.S. attorney with similar qualifications and experience. This is a full-time, at-will position in the expected service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The position includes a comprehensive benefits package, featuring generous health, dental, vision, and life insurance; 13 to 26 days of annual leave depending on years of service; 13 days of sick leave per year; and 11 paid federal holidays. Employees also participate in the Federal Employees Retirement System and may contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan with up to 5% agency matching contributions. The position is eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness and includes access to the Employee Assistance Program, and regular continuing legal education opportunities. While this is not a full-time teleworking position, appellate attorneys are allowed liberal teleworking.

Regional Overview

With beautiful vistas from the mountains to the sea, South Carolina has breweries, art museums, music venues, hiking trails, minor league baseball teams, SEC and ACC college sports, and much, much more. [Visiting SC](#) and [Moving to SC](#).



Background Investigation

This is a sensitive position within the Federal Judiciary. Employment will be considered provisional pending successful completion of an FBI fingerprint check, favorable reference checks, social media inquiry, and a favorable suitability determination.

Applicant Information

Employees must adhere to a [Code of Conduct](#).

The Court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents seeking U.S. citizenship.

Positions with the Federal Public Defender are excepted service appointments, which are “at will” and may be terminated with or without cause.

Employees are required to use direct deposit.

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.