

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Research and Writing Attorney – Trial Division  
Tallahassee, FL**



Tallahassee, FL - Cascades Park

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida is seeking a Research and Writing Attorney for its Trial Unit. The position will be based in our main office in Tallahassee, Florida, however, the attorney will work on cases throughout the district. Applicants should be willing to travel as needed.

The Research and Writing Specialist is an attorney position that provides advanced legal research and writing services to the FPD and Trial Unit AFDs, 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.

Tallahassee is Florida's Capital City and home to the Florida State University Seminoles and the Florida A&M University Rattlers. Tallahassee has something for everyone, whether it be bike and nature trails, state parks, museums, college sports, and more. Tallahassee's unique location in the Florida Panhandle allows access to seafood festivals, holiday festivals, as well as caverns and natural springs. Further, Tallahassee offers a quality of life that is not available in larger cities – the cost of living is 73% lower than San Francisco, 28% lower than Miami, and 46% lower than Washington, D.C., per the Forbes.com Cost of Living Calculator (January 2026).



Tallahassee, FL – Lake Ella



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 approval of funding.

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](mailto:FLN_Resumes@fd.org). Please note “Attorney position - Tallahassee” in the subject of email. Applications will be reviewed on a continuing basis until the position is filled.

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.



Tallahassee, FL - Collegetown

Vacancy Announcement FY26-002