



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEFENDER
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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT #17-008 ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER – CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT

The Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California is now accepting applications for the position of one Assistant Federal Defender for its Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) in the Sacramento Office. The dedicated team of attorneys, investigators, paralegals, and legal assistants in the CHU advocate for indigent prisoners sentenced to death in California or by a federal court. Our CHU unit staff has extensive and diverse experience in life, law and the field of capital habeas litigation. Skilled collaboration, strategic litigation, compassionate representation, and unique approaches to the issues affecting our clients are among the values we aim to foster in our CHU.

Duties: CHU attorneys represent death-sentenced prisoners in their federal habeas corpus proceedings. CHU attorneys carry a full caseload, representing clients in all stages of their federal court litigation—from investigation, to briefing at all levels of the court system, through oral advocacy, and in clemency proceedings. Regular responsibilities include: working with clients; digesting large case files and investigative materials; developing litigation strategies; drafting pleadings; conducting evidentiary hearings; presenting oral arguments; working with experts and other witnesses; and supervising teams of investigators, paralegals, and legal assistants. This position may require work on holidays, evenings, and weekends. Frequent travel within the United States also may be required.

Requirements: All applicants must be members of the California Bar or be willing to sit for the next California Bar exam, if they are a member of another state Bar. Membership to the California Bar must occur within two years of employment. Preference will be given to applicants with at least three years of experience in state and/or federal criminal law, complex civil litigation, death penalty litigation, or habeas corpus litigation, or applicants with federal judicial clerkship experience. Other exceptional experience or qualifications that would serve our clients may be considered in lieu of the litigation experience described above. Applicants must have an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in capital defense, strong written and oral advocacy skills, work well in teams, and be effective organizers.

Salary and Benefits: This is a full-time permanent position. Federal government benefits apply, including retirement, health, life and long-term insurances, thrift savings program, and flexible spending accounts. Direct deposit of pay required. Employees of the Federal Defender are considered “at-will” employees and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. Must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident in the process of applying for citizenship. Selected candidate will be subject to background check as condition of employment.

To apply, send cover letter, résumé, three references, writing sample and a completed Application for Judicial Branch Employment form (AO78), http://www.cae-fpd.org/AO_78.pdf, to the following email:

cae_hr@fd.org

Position announced on June 15, 2017. Position closes on July 7, 2017.

The Office of the Federal Defender is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.