



**OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEFENDER**  
Eastern District of California  
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Fresno, California 93721  
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**HEATHER E. WILLIAMS**  
Federal Defender

**JEROME PRICE**  
Chief Assistant Defender

**ERIC V. KERSTEN**  
Fresno Branch Chief

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT #23-003**  
**ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER**

The Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California is now accepting applications for a full-time **Assistant Federal Defender** position for its Fresno Office. The Office of the Federal Defender operates under the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, representing indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related court matters.

Our Assistant Federal Defenders provide zealous, professional legal representation to indigent persons charged with misdemeanor and felony criminal offenses before the United States District Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and occasionally before the United States Supreme Court. Office attorneys carry an extensive, varied caseload through all litigation stages with room to explore novel legal and factual arguments in defending our clients. Our lawyers practice at the highest levels, enjoying excellent reputations for personal and professional integrity. Our Office also boasts a collegial culture, strongly encouraging teamwork and collaborative discussion.

Fresno, California's fifth largest city and located in the heart of the Central Valley, is a vibrant, diverse community offering affordable housing, farmers' markets, a lively arts scene, and a growing Brewery District. Fresno is conveniently located only hours away from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks; Paso Robles's award-winning wineries; California's beautiful central coast; and major metropolitan areas including San Francisco and Los Angeles.

We seek a driven attorney committed to client-centered representation. Prior experience or clerkship welcomed but not required. Immediate responsibilities include managing a misdemeanor caseload arising out of nearby Yosemite National Park, U.S. Forest Service lands, Edwards Air Force Base, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Travel is required. The ideal candidate has excellent legal writing and oral advocacy skills, the ability to work in a collaborative team environment, and effective organizational skills with the ability to set priorities.

All applicants must either be admitted to the State Bar of California or be a member in good standing of another state's bar and be admitted to the California Bar within two years of starting. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident applying for U.S. citizenship. The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as an employment condition.

**Salary and Benefits: Salary depends upon the number of years legal experience since graduating law school and ranges match those of Assistant U.S. Attorneys with similar years' experience.** Benefits include health, long-term care, and life

insurance, as well as 12 paid federal holidays, 13 days of paid sick leave, and 13 days of paid vacation leave annually if none or less than 3 years federal employment. (The rate of paid vacation leave increases with years of service.) The position is eligible for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), including the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which matches up to 5% of employee contributions. Salary is paid biweekly and only by direct deposit. Partial telework is available for this position.

**Commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Our office values diversity, is committed to equity and inclusion. The FPD seeks applications from a diverse group of qualified individuals in terms of race, ethnicity, nation of origin, culture, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual identity, languages spoken, veteran status, disability, and religion. We encourage applications from members of the BIPOC community, people who have been affected by the criminal legal system, and people from other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency.

Applicants will need to be up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations (per the Centers for Disease Control's definition of "up to date," <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>) by their start date, with proof provided.

**To apply, please submit as a single Adobe pdf file a cover letter, résumé, writing sample, three references and a completed *Application for Judicial Branch Employment form (AO78)*, [http://www.cae-fpd.org/AO\\_78.pdf](http://www.cae-fpd.org/AO_78.pdf), to:**

Heather Williams, Federal Defender  
Attn: Human Resources

at the following email: [cae\\_hr@fd.org](mailto:cae_hr@fd.org)

[Position posted on 10/26/2022 and open until filled, with priority consideration of applications received before November 18, 2022. Applicants will be notified before we contact any references.](#)