

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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Chief, Capital Habeas Unit

Vacancy Announcement

Position: Non-Capital Habeas Unit Attorney
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Deadline: April 30, 2022

The Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California is accepting applications for full-time attorney positions in its non-capital habeas unit (NCHU), stationed in Los Angeles, California. The NCHU is committed to the pursuit of justice by aggressively advocating in federal court for the constitutional rights and inherent dignity of individuals who are convicted of crimes and cannot afford their own lawyer.

Job Duties: NCHU attorneys primarily represent indigent California state prisoners in federal habeas corpus actions challenging their state judgments. Core job duties include communicating with clients; summarizing trial transcripts; conducting research; directing investigation; working with experts; drafting habeas petitions, motions and briefs; and conducting evidentiary hearings and appellate arguments. On occasion, NCHU attorneys are also assigned to federal criminal trial cases and capital habeas corpus cases.

Requirements: All applicants must have graduated from an accredited law school and be members in good standing of the California Bar or must be willing to sit for the next California Bar exam. Preference will be given to applicants with at least three years of experience in state and/or federal criminal law or applicants with federal judicial clerkship experience. In line with current appropriations law, applicants must be United States citizens or permanent residents seeking citizenship as described here: <https://www.uscourts.gov/careers/search-judiciary-jobs/citizenship-requirements-employment-judiciary>

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be requested of the candidate(s) selected for this position. Additional information regarding the office's vaccine policy will be provided to the selected candidate(s)

Selection Criteria: Candidates must have a demonstrated commitment to indigent criminal defense and/or public interest law; must have superior oral and written communication skills; possess excellent research skills; and work well in teams. A background investigation is required as a condition of employment.

Salary/Benefits: This is a full-time, at-will position. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience and is subject to direct deposit. Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement,

and a Thrift Savings Plan. For more information on benefits, see <http://www.uscourts.gov/careers/benefits>.

How to Apply: Apply by emailing a letter of interest, résumé, two representative writing samples (limited to 15 pages), and three references in a single PDF document to Cuauhtemoc Ortega, Federal Public Defender, at Employment@fpdcdca.org with the subject line: NCHU ATTORNEY APPLICATION. All application materials must be received by April 30, 2022. The Federal Public Defender's Office may fill current and future positions from this vacancy announcement. Please, no phone calls.

The Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California 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.