

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 21-21**  
**Assistant Federal Public Defender – Capital Habeas Unit**  
**Office of the Federal Public Defender**  
**District of Arizona**  
**Phoenix**

THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) to be stationed out of Phoenix, Arizona. Attorneys in the CHU represent persons under a sentence of death in habeas corpus proceedings in the federal court. The federal defender organization operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters by appointment from the court. The Capital Habeas Unit has staffed offices in Phoenix and Tucson.

**Requirements.** An assistant federal public defender must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school, and admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; (2) licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court by the time of entrance on duty. Applicants are required to have at least five years capital litigation experience in state post-conviction or federal habeas corpus proceedings. Other related experience may be considered. Applicants must be client-centered, team-oriented, exhibit strong writing skills and a commitment to criminal defense for those facing the death penalty. Regular and extended travel is often required.

**Selection Criteria.** The successful applicant will 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 personal integrity. Applicants must submit to a background security investigation requiring a FBI name check, IRS tax check, and to be fingerprinted and photographed. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication.

**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. The position is in the excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The position does include regular Government employment benefits including health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit). All positions are at will and are subject to the availability of funds.

**How to Apply.** Qualified persons should e-mail a letter of interest, resume, and representative writing sample. References will be required from candidates selected for an interview. Applicable experience should be described in detail. Send completed application to the Personnel Administrator, Federal Public Defender, District of Arizona, at [azx\\_hr@fd.org](mailto:azx_hr@fd.org). Revised September 30, 2021; Open until filled.

***The Office of the Federal Public Defender is an equal-opportunity employer.  
Women, minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.***