

# FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

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**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
Henry A. Martin

**CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT CHIEF**  
Kelley Henry

## **Vacancy Announcement: Assistant Federal Public Defender Capital Habeas Unit Nashville, Tennessee**

810 Broadway, Suite 200  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615-736-5047  
[www.TNM.FD.org](http://www.TNM.FD.org)

Posting No. 2024-02

Open until filled. Announcement is for two vacancies.

Preference given to applicants who apply by December 29, 2023.

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The Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Tennessee is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Defender, an attorney position in our Capital Habeas Unit (“CHU”). The CHU Unit is responsible for representing death-sentenced clients in federal habeas corpus proceedings. We are filling two positions with this posting.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Candidates must be admitted to the practice of law and eligible for admission to the federal bar and the bar of the State of Tennessee. The ideal candidate will have experience dealing with mentally ill persons and some capital litigation experience in trial, direct appeal, state post-conviction or federal habeas corpus proceedings. Other related experience may be considered. These are not entry-level positions.



**DUTIES:** These attorneys will be part of a team representing death-sentenced individuals in proceedings brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 including in district court, on appeal, and at the Supreme Court. These attorneys will represent clients through all stages of the habeas corpus proceeding. The successful candidate will be able to develop strong client relationships, digest large case files, and investigative materials, write fact and law intensive pleadings, and work closely with a multi-disciplinary team including paralegals, investigators, mitigation specialists, experts, and other witnesses. This position will require the ability for frequent travel.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Successful applicants will demonstrate passion and a clear dedication to indigent defense in criminal cases. Applicants must possess extraordinary communication skills with clients, witnesses, colleagues, staff, and court-appointed agency personnel. The successful candidate will be a creative thinker and a skilled collaborator.

**CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:** The selected candidate will be subject to a comprehensive background check or investigation, including an F.B.I. name and fingerprint check, and subsequent favorable suitability determination for employment. Employees of the Federal Public Defender's Office are in the excepted service, are considered "at-will" employees, serve at the pleasure of the Defender, and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. Positions are contingent on funding. In line with current appropriations law, applicants must be citizens of the United States or permanent residents seeking citizenship as described here:  
<https://www.uscourts.gov/careers/search-judiciary-jobs/citizenship-requirements-employment-judiciary>.

**SALARY AND COMPENSATION:** Starting salary commensurate with experience and qualifications and is comparable to that of Assistant U.S. Attorneys with similar qualifications and experience. Salary is payable only by direct deposit. Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. For additional information on benefits, see <http://www.uscourts.gov/careers/benefits>. The FPD makes every effort to value work-life balance.

**Application Process:** To apply, combine the following documents in a **single** Adobe PDF and email to [TNM\\_HR@fd.org](mailto:TNM_HR@fd.org) with the subject line "**CHU - AFD**":

- a brief cover letter explaining your interest in the position and your qualifications;
- a resume;
- three references including contact information; and
- a representative writing sample.

**Applications submitted by fax or mail will not be considered. No phone calls, please.**

*The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Tennessee 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.*

