



FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Investigator/Mitigation Specialist Capital Habeas Unit

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Pennsylvania is accepting applications for the position of Investigator for the Capital Habeas Unit in Harrisburg. Our office is committed to improving cultural diversity and inclusion among our colleagues and throughout the national defender community in which we serve, while also battling racial bias and discrimination in the criminal justice system.

Job Description: A Capital Habeas Investigator/Mitigation Specialist works closely with attorneys, paralegals and clients in the representation of state and federal death-sentenced clients in federal habeas corpus proceedings. Investigators play an integral role in the development and presentation of guilt and penalty phase issues, including mitigation. Investigators are responsible for locating and interviewing witnesses, retrieving documents and other evidence, preparing affidavits, assisting the team in development of theories and bases for relief, identifying and discussing issues with attorneys and paralegals regarding client representation; maintaining contact with witnesses and preparing witnesses for evidentiary hearings.

Requirements and Qualifications: Applicants must possess trial phase investigation and mitigation experience, including the development of defense mitigation presentations in capital trials or post-conviction cases. Applicants without demonstrated mitigation experience will be considered if they possess experience with mental health or social work issues, have other investigative skills such as a background in investigative journalism, or prior experience with the preparation of trial in complex criminal matters within the federal courts. Applicants must be able to work effectively in a team-based environment; possess strong oral, written, and interpersonal skills; be a self-starter; be accurate and attentive to detail; organize work; set priorities; and meet critical deadlines. The position also requires knowledge of federal and state court systems and familiarity with federal habeas corpus or other post-conviction litigation and/or complex federal civil or criminal litigation. **Fluent in Spanish and/or experience with vulnerable or mentally ill populations is a plus. This position requires a valid driver license and may require working holiday, evening, and weekend hours and will require extensive local and national travel (post-pandemic).**

This is a full-time position with federal salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience. The salary range for investigators in the Federal Judiciary Salary Plan is Grade 11 to 14. This position is subject to mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) participation for receipt of net pay. The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as a condition of employment. Women and other minorities are encouraged to apply. The position is open until filled. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to:

Office of the Federal Public Defender
Capital Habeas Unit
Attn: Lisa Zerby, Administrative Officer
100 Chestnut Street, Third Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
OR Lisa_Zerby@fd.org
No phone calls, please.

Priority consideration for applicants who respond by Monday, September 14, 2020.
Virtual interviews for selected candidates will be held on September 22-23, 2020.
If an offer will be extended, the successful candidate will be notified by September 28; however, the anticipated start date for this position is four months after the offer is accepted.

The Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Pennsylvania is an Equal Opportunity Employer.