

2020: Federal Defender Detailee Legislative Counsel United States House Judiciary Committee

The United States House Judiciary Committee Chair has again invited an Assistant Federal Public Defender to be detailed to the Committee for not more than two years. **The detailee position scheduled to begin in January 2021 is available.** The detailee will be assigned to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security and will focus on criminal justice policy and legislation. The detailee will have the opportunity to participate in every stage of the legislative process. Responsibilities include evaluating pending and proposed legislation, drafting legislation and amendments, and briefing members and other legislative staff on pending legislation in meetings, memoranda, and letters. The detailee will also help plan, prepare for, and staff subject-matter and markup hearings by drafting memoranda, preparing hearing questions, statements, and coordinating witnesses. Other responsibilities may include preparing floor statements, drafting dissenting and additional views for committee reports, staffing floor debates and Rules Committee presentations, and meeting with stakeholders and advocates to discuss issues and legislation.

The Legislative Detail program is designed to benefit federal defenders by providing an in-depth view of the legislative process and exposure to the development of criminal justice law and policy, as well as an opportunity to hone a specialized set of legislative research, advocacy, and analytical skills. The program also enhances communication and expands the working relationship between Congress and the federal defender community.

Experienced AFPDs are encouraged to apply. Applicants must possess excellent oral and written communication skills. An ability to express, orally and in writing, complex legal issues in clear and succinct language so that the concepts are understood by both lawyers and non-lawyers is essential. Applicants also must demonstrate the capacity to work effectively with others.

Prior to applying to the program, applicants must obtain the approval of their federal defender. Upon the request of a federal defender, additional funding may be provided to that office to support the hiring of a temporary replacement for up to one year.

The person selected for this temporary duty assignment will continue to be an employee of their respective federal defender office, which will continue to pay all salary and benefits. In addition to the regular salary, however, the detailee will receive a stipend for both housing in Washington and per diem while on the temporary assignment. A certain number of round-trips home will also be provided.

Please direct any questions to Patricia Richman, National Sentencing Resource Counsel, at Patricia_Richman@fd.org. Applications (cover letter, resume and writing sample) should be sent to David Patton and Jon Sands, Co-Chairs of the Federal Defender Legislative Committee, c/o Francine Leiser at Francine_Leiser@fd.org.