

Duties Legal and Policy Division, Attorney Advisor

DSO administers the hybrid system of federally appointed counsel consisting of federal defender organizations and private Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorneys. DSO also serves as staff and counsel to the Judicial Conference's Defender Services Committee (DSC). LPD supports the DSC and the federal defense community by providing legal and policy guidance. For more information, visit: <https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/defender-services>.

The incumbent will be committed to upholding the Defender Services program mission, which is to ensure that the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, the CJA, and other statutory mandates are enforced on behalf of the clients who cannot afford to retain counsel and other necessary defense services.

Job duties may include but are not limited to:

1. Supporting the work of the Defender Services Committee by writing briefs and serving as an expert on laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the CJA.
2. Preparing written materials on a variety of legal, policy, and resource issues as part of the bi-annual meeting cycle.
3. Supporting standing and ad hoc subcommittees of the Defender Services Committee.
4. Responding to requests for information and research from the Chair and members of the Committee.
5. Researching various legal and policy issues affecting the delivery of services under the CJA and related statutes.
6. Developing and communicating program policies and guidance through facilitation of stakeholder advisory and working groups and assisting courts in maintaining consistency in the application of laws and statutes.
7. Interpreting policies and guidance related to the CJA, consulting with Administrative Office and court personnel, federal defenders, and panel attorneys to implement related policies and guidance.
8. Responding to telephone and written inquiries from judges and other court personnel, Congress (in coordination with other AO offices), federal defenders, CJA panel attorneys, and the public concerning the appointment and payment of counsel and experts in federal capital and non-capital cases and the operation of federal defender organizations.
9. Developing long-term programmatic strategies and initiatives to support federal defenders and CJA panel attorneys appointed to represent defendants in complex non-capital cases, federal capital habeas corpus proceedings, and federal capital prosecutions.
10. Supporting Defender Services Office leadership and members of the Defender Services Committee, with data-informed communications to advance public defense advocacy through the development of talking points, presentations at small meetings and large conferences, and other forms of written and oral communications materials.
11. Improving the integration and use of data in policy decisions and communications efforts within the DSO, and the LPD.
12. Providing guidance on major legislative matters.

Closes: 9/28/2023

Link to Apply: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)