VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
DISTRICT OF OREGON
Address: 101 SW Main St. Suite 1700
Portland, OR 97204
Website: or.fd.org

Position: Investigator
(Full-Time, Permanent)
Vacancy: 26-05
Duty Station: Portland, Oregon
Salary: $80,465 - $176,183, DOE
Salary is subject to merit and cost of living increases. Current federal employees are subject to salary matching rules per Judiciary policy.

Overview

Investigators are part of the Federal Public Defender team representing qualified defendants charged with federal crimes ranging from drug offenses to murder to complex fraud, as well as individuals challenging state convictions through federal habeas corpus proceedings. Investigators work under the direction of the case attorney, investigator supervisor, and the Federal Defender to uncover the facts to effectively advocate for our clients at all stages of their cases including pretrial release, motions, trials, sentencing, and post-sentence proceedings.

Primary Job Duties

- Locate witnesses, evidence, records, and personal property.
- Conduct interviews with clients, witnesses, experts, family members, and other individuals.
- Photograph and document crime scenes and evidence.
- Analyze extensive electronic discovery and develop investigation plans using the identified facts.
- Develop mitigation evidence based on mental health, historical, environmental, and social factors.
- Write comprehensive descriptive reports on work completed.
- Assist attorneys in court, including testifying at court proceedings.
- Advocate for clients who are facing difficulties while incarcerated, as well as clients who are on pretrial or post-conviction supervised release to provide support, crisis intervention, and case management assistance.
- Facilitate client referrals for community-based services including vocational and educational development, criminal justice and supervision involvement, community integration, substance abuse and mental health treatment, family and interpersonal relationship support, and health and trauma counseling.



How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter, resume, a relevant writing sample, and contact information for three (3) professional references as a **single PDF attachment** by email to: oregon_personnel@fd.org subject line "INVESTIGATOR" **When saving your documents as one PDF, it is important to name the file using only your lastname and "_INVESTIGATOR"**. Only candidates selected for an interview will be notified..

Application Deadlines:

Open until filled. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Priority will be given to applications received prior to November 23, 2026. More than one position may be filled from this advertisement, including career and limited duration appointments. All responses will remain confidential.

Office Overview

The Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon consists of a three office, the main office in Portland and branch offices in Eugene and Medford. Our clients come from all across Oregon. The FPD has a staff of 75, including 25 attorneys, 15 investigators along with paralegals and other support staff.

Required Qualification

- Three or more years of progressively responsible investigative experience in the functional areas described in the Primary Job Duties section above. At least 6 years of total experience.
- The necessary initiative, ingenuity, resourcefulness, maturity, and judgment needed to perform the Primary Job Duties to a high standard of excellence.
- Comprehensive knowledge of fact and mitigation investigation principles, methods, and techniques.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of legal processes.
- Computer and social media literacy, familiarity with Windows OS, and proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, Adobe Acrobat, and Accurint (or similar).
- A valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and applicable insurance.
- A demonstrated commitment to and comfort working with diverse communities and with clients from a range of backgrounds.

Preferred Qualifications

- English-Spanish Bilingual language skills strongly preferred.
- Experience working in and/or with Native American, Hispanic and/or African American communities.
- A background in social work, reentry courts, mental health treatment and diagnosis, and recovery and addiction treatment.
- Experience with international investigation and travel.
- Experience with matters involving complex fraud, bankruptcy, and financial records.

Selection Criteria

Application materials, interviews, and references must demonstrate that the candidate possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties of the position. The ideal candidate must believe in this office's mission of zealously protecting and advocating for our clients' interests. Candidates with significant criminal investigation experience, language skills, relevant cultural experience, and familiarity with federal criminal defense practices will be prioritized.

Benefits

Thirteen (13) days of vacation for the first three years, which increases with tenure. Thirteen (13) days of sick leave and eleven (11) paid holidays. Flexible telework up to two days a week. Choice of employer-subsidized federal health and life insurance plans, with optional dental, vision, and long-term care coverage. Flexible spending account program. Federal Employees Retirement System and employer-matching Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401K). On-site fitness center. On site Parking.



Background Investigation

This is a sensitive position within the Federal Judiciary. Employment will be considered provisional pending successful completion of an FBI Fingerprint check, favorable reference checks, social media inquiry, and a favorable suitability determination.

Applicant Information

Employees must adhere to a Code of Conduct. The Court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. Veterans' preference is not a factor used in Judicial Branch appointments. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents seeking U.S. citizenship.

Positions with the Federal Public Defender are excepted service appointments, which are "at will" and may be terminated with or without cause. Employees are required to use direct deposit.

This vacancy and the timing of start date is subject to funding.

The Federal Public Defender, District of Oregon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

See FAQ at
http://or.fd.org/content/employment