VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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



Position: Eugene Branch Chief/Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender (Full-Time, Permanent)
Vacancy: 26-06E
Duty Station: Eugene, Oregon
Salary: $88,848 - $197,100, DOE
AFPD salary is subject to merit and cost of living increases. Current federal employees are subject to salary matching rules per Judiciary policy.

Overview

The Eugene Branch Chief leads the Eugene office's fight against systemic injustice by advocating for qualified defendants in federal criminal cases and other covered matters for individuals who are financially unable to obtain adequate representation.

Primary Job Duties

- Lead the team of attorneys, paralegals and investigators in the Eugene office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon.
- Represent qualifying individuals charged with violating federal criminal statutes at all stages of federal criminal trial matters in the district court.
- Frequently appear in court before both magistrate judges and district court judges. Court appearances include: initial appearances, pretrial release hearings, motion hearings, trials, sentencings, appeals, and probation violation proceedings.
- Advocate for clients from diverse backgrounds, including those with histories of trauma, mental health, and substance abuse issues.
- Work in teams with co-counsel, investigators, paralegals, legal assistants, social workers, and contracted experts.
- Support clients through holistic problem-solving and community engagement during pretrial, trial, and sentencing proceedings, as well as with reentry.
- Write persuasive briefs to achieve client goals and work for improvement in the law.
- Maintain frequent client contact in person, by phone, and in writing.

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 "Eugene Branch Chief AFPD" **When saving your documents as one PDF, it is important to name the file using only your last name and "_AFPD"**. 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 December 20, 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. The Eugene office consists of 3 attorneys, 2 investigators, and 2 paralegals.

Required Qualifications

Applicants must:

- have the knowledge, skills, and ability needed to immediately defend indigent individuals in criminal cases in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.
- be a graduate of an accredited law school and an active member in good standing of the bar in any state, territory, or possession.
- have at least five (5) years of state or federal criminal practice; have recent, substantial criminal felony trial-level experience; strong written and oral advocacy skills; and a proven commitment to indigent criminal defense.
- have strong leadership, technological, organizational, and interpersonal skills are required.
- have a demonstrated commitment to and comfort working with diverse communities and with clients from a range of backgrounds is required.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience leading and managing a team of legal professionals is preferred.
- Conversational Spanish-language skills preferred.

Selection Criteria

Application materials, interviews, and reference check information must demonstrate that the candidate possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties of the position. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a commitment to this office's mission of zealously protecting our clients' interests.

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).

Regional Overview

Eugene is uniquely situated with easy access to the beautiful Pacific Ocean, Cascade Mountains, wine country in the Willamette Valley and high-plateau desert. Home to the University of Oregon and a thriving arts scene, Eugene pulses with intellectual energy, live music, theater and eclectic local events. From craft fairs to art walks and concerts there's always something happening. The culinary scene is diverse and delicious. Local and organic farmers' markets and boutique shops offer seasonal produce and treats, fresh flowers and small-batch goods.



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.

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

See FAQ at
https://or.fd.org/faqs/employment

