

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER - DISTRICT OF OREGON

LAW CLERK POSITIONS – 2027

Portland, Eugene and Medford Offices

The Federal Public Defender represents indigent people charged with federal crimes, including bank robbery, gun and drug crimes, immigration violations, and various frauds. The Federal Public Defender is committed to the pursuit of justice through zealous advocacy in federal court for the constitutional rights and inherent dignity of individuals who are accused or convicted of crimes and cannot afford their own lawyer. We advance the rights of all individuals by developing innovative approaches in our representation that promote systemic change and by serving as a valuable resource to the larger legal community. Because we know that insight from a diversity of experiences and perspectives will enhance our work, we are committed to fostering diversity in our office. We invest in recruiting, training, and retaining colleagues who demonstrate experience with, knowledge of, and sensitivity to the needs of culturally diverse and oppressed populations.

Law clerks assist the defenders by researching legal issues and drafting trial memoranda, motions to suppress, jury instructions, appellate briefs, and other legal writing. Typical research topics involve search and seizure issues, the right to counsel, outrageous government misconduct, evidence questions, and constitutional issues in habeas cases. In addition to the research and writing, clerks also have the opportunity to watch proceedings in the U.S. District Court and the Ninth Circuit and attend attorney staffings and meetings. Students also help interview clients and negotiate cases on the monthly violation and misdemeanor docket. Certified law clerks may have the opportunity to represent clients in misdemeanor bench trials.

We are currently recruiting for summer 2027, accepting applications for our Portland, Eugene, and Medford offices. The position is in person, full time during the summer months and can be extended into the 2027-2028 school year on a part time (12-20 hours a week) basis for local applicants by mutual agreement.

Required Qualifications:

- Excellent legal research and writing skills.
- An inventive mind
- Completion of the first year of law school by the start of the clerkship.

Preferred Qualifications:

- A demonstrated interest in criminal law and/or public service.
- A demonstrated commitment to and comfort working with diverse communities and with clients from a range of backgrounds.
- Academic engagement with the law, as demonstrated by a GPA of 3.0 or higher or other relevant evidence.

Positions Open: 8-12 (summer), 4-8 (fall and spring)

Compensation: The position can be made up of a combination of work study, externship, public interest stipend, volunteer, etc. Please contact Travis Southworth-Neumeyer, Personnel Administrator, with questions.

How to Apply: Interested applicants should e-mail a cover letter, resume, five-page writing sample (excerpts acceptable), and unofficial transcript to:

Travis Southworth-Neumeyer, Personnel Administrator
oregon_personnel@fd.org
Subject: FPD Law Clerk Application 2027

Deadline: Applications will be considered and offers will be made on a rolling basis.

We encourage applications from individuals with diverse perspectives, especially people historically underrepresented in the practice of law.

**The Federal Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
No phone calls please.**

See FAQ at <http://or.fd.org/content/employment> for additional information about working in our office.