



**FEDERAL PUBLIC
DEFENDER
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

Jason D. Hawkins, Federal Public Defender

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SUMMER 2017 INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP INFORMATION

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas provides indigent defendants with high-quality legal representation at all stages of litigation for offenses ranging from petty misdemeanors to capital murder. The Federal Defender provides attorney representation, investigative support, expert witness testimony, and any other needed legal services.

The Federal Defender's offices in Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Amarillo are staffed with Assistant Federal Public Defenders (AFPDs), investigators, paralegals, and various support personnel. The AFPDs handle caseloads consisting of misdemeanors, felonies, probation revocations, and appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

Each Defender office employs a limited number of non-salaried interns/externs ("interns") who will receive hands-on experience in the preparation of various stages of a client's defense. An intern may research legal issues, draft motions and memoranda, and otherwise assist with trial preparation (to include investigating, interviewing witnesses, and strategizing with trial counsel). Interns who demonstrate requisite analytical skills and availability may also work with the Defender's appellate attorneys. These interns will collaborate on briefs to the circuit court and on *certiorari* petitions and merits briefs to the Supreme Court. They will also assist with oral argument preparation. Subject to approval, some interns may elect to do both trial and appellate work.

While each office will have a supervisory attorney to monitor intern assignments and progress in each office, interns will work with one or more AFPDs. Subject to the Defender's needs, some interns may even collaborate with attorneys from other offices.

Summer interns are expected to work approximately forty hours (40) per week in either five-to-six-week blocks (for those who split their summer) or eight-to-ten-week blocks. (Summer

externs—students who receive academic credit in exchange for a minimum number of hours worked—will arrange their respective schedules with the office’s Extern Coordinator.) Interns/externs will be selected on the basis of past work or school experience and performance, the desire to work in the Federal Defender’s offices, a demonstrated level of maturity and competence, and the level of commitment toward indigent defense. While any law student may apply, second-year and (first semester) third-year students generally fare the best. But, because the Federal Defender has hired 1L students and anticipates continuing to do so, “rising 2L” students are welcome to apply.

Interested individuals must complete an application (available online) and submit it, along with: (1) a current résumé, (2) a writing sample (10 pages or less, please), (3) your law school transcript, and (4) a letter of interest or one-page, double-spaced essay explaining your motivation to work in the office of the Federal Public Defender. Selected applicants will then be scheduled for an in-person or telephonic interview. Please note that successful applicants must undergo background investigation, to include finger-printing. Successful applicants also must be able to demonstrate their eligibility to work in the United States by completing a Form I-9.

We will begin accepting applications on November 1, 2016, and will continue to accept them on a rolling basis.

Summer internship applications should be completed online (<http://txn.fd.org/en/employment/internship>). The application will permit you to state the location(s) at which you are interested in working. Should you have questions, please contact:

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