

# FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

---

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER  
JASON D. HAWKINS

FIRST ASSISTANT  
JOHN NICHOLSON

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
JACQUELINE BUNKLEY

525 S. GRIFFIN STREET  
SUITE 629  
DALLAS, TX 75202

Voice: (214) 767-2746  
Fax: (214) 767-2886  
<http://txn.fd.org>

APPELLATE CHIEF  
K. JOEL PAGE

LUBBOCK BRANCH CHIEF  
SHERY KIME-GOODWIN

FORT WORTH BRANCH CHIEF  
CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

---

## Vacancy Announcement

---

Position: Supervising Assistant Federal Public Defender – Capital Habeas Unit (CHU)

Location: Dallas Division

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

---

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Federal Public Defender in the newly forming Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas. The CHU represents death-sentenced prisoners in federal habeas corpus proceedings in the United States District Courts in Texas, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

There are several CHUs in operation across the country and this will be one of two CHUs established for the first time in Texas. You will have the unique opportunity to help build something from the ground floor. Skilled collaboration, strategic litigation, compassionate representation, and unique approaches to the issues affecting our clients are among the values we aim to foster in our CHU.

The supervising Assistant Federal Public Defender for the CHU will be responsible for managing the CHU and will report directly to the Federal Public Defender. The successful applicant must: (1) be immediately able to undertake the hiring, training, and supervision of a staff charged with the representation of petitioners in federal capital habeas proceedings; (2) be a talented legal writer and a proven advocate and litigator in capital habeas cases, with substantial experience handling capital post-conviction or capital appellate cases; (3) be team oriented, committed to indigent criminal defense, and able to foster the office's role as a resource to the Criminal Justice Act panel members in capital habeas cases; and (4) be a graduate of an accredited law school, and be a member in good standing of the highest court in the state where licensed, but a Texas bar license is strongly preferred. ***This will be no easy task.***

Some management experience is preferred, as is either current or prior employment by a CHU. A background in any area of mental health and/or social work is also helpful. This position may require work on holidays, evenings, and weekends, as the nature of the cases require. This position also requires extensive travel. The CHU will represent death-sentenced prisoners in all four federal districts in Texas.

**Salary and Benefits:** The position is full-time with federal benefits and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. The position is excepted service and does not

carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by direct deposit. A final offer of employment is subject to a background check.

**Application Process:** To apply, email to [TXN\\_Employment@fd.org](mailto:TXN_Employment@fd.org) **in a single Adobe PDF file** the following:

- A brief cover letter explaining your interest in the position and your qualifications;
- A resume;
- References;
- Law school transcripts, and;
- Representative writing sample.

**Applications submitted by fax or mail will not be considered. Moreover, do not send your application directly to the Federal Public Defender via e-mail because he will promptly delete the e-mail.** More than one position may be filled with this announcement.

The Federal Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer