

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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Vacancy Announcement

Position: Research and Writing Attorneys – 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 full-time Research and Writing Attorneys 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. 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. If you are not able to work well with other lawyers, paralegals, investigators, legal assistants, and interns in the office in defending the indigent, then do not apply.

The successful applicant must be a talented legal writer, possess excellent research skills, be team oriented, and committed to indigent criminal defense. Duties include providing support to the Federal Defender and Assistant Federal Public Defenders through legal research and writing. Specifically, the R&W attorney will research and aid in drafting capital habeas petitions, motions relating to capital habeas litigation in the district court, and capital habeas appellate briefing and motions. The only difference between AFPDs and Research and Writing Attorneys is that R&W attorneys are not authorized to appear in court on behalf of the client.

In addition, the R&W attorney will work directly with the Federal Defender and the Supervisor of the CHU to assist with issues relating to capital habeas litigation in Texas. Among other responsibilities, the R&W attorney will monitor potential federal capital petitioners, apprise the Defender and Supervisor of the CHU on developments in state and federal capital habeas litigation, and will liaison with Criminal Justice Act attorneys representing capital habeas petitioners in the district.

Applicants must 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. If you are a 2017 law school graduate and will be awaiting your bar exam results in the fall of 2017, we will consider your application.

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 **in a single Adobe PDF file using the subject line “NDTX-R&W-CHU”** 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