



FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

FORT WORTH
DIVISION

FEDERAL DEFENDER

Jason D. Hawkins

FIRST ASSISTANT

John Nicholson

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DIVISION SUPERVISOR

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

Brook Antonio

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John Stickney

Andrenette Sullivan

Rachel Taft

INVESTIGATORS

Tony Pagan

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PARALEGAL

Shea Griffin

Sara Nunez

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Belinda Sandoval

ADMINISTRATIVE
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Jacqueline Bunkley

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
FORT WORTH TRIAL DIVISION

The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Federal Public Defender in the trial unit in our [Fort Worth](#) office. The trial unit represents indigent persons charged with a crime in federal court. Through an interdisciplinary team approach, we provide our clients with the highest level of legal representation challenging the charges brought against them.



The Federal Public Defender's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to improving diversity in the legal field. It is critical to our clients' representation that the office be composed of individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds. The nature of our work leads us to invest in recruiting colleagues who demonstrate experience with, knowledge of, and sensitivity to the needs of culturally diverse and oppressed populations.

Skilled collaboration, strategic litigation, compassionate representation, and professionalism are among the values we aim to foster.

Because no single person can do this work alone, you will work with experienced

lawyers, investigators, paralegals and legal assistants. The ability to work well on a team is mandatory.



Salary and Benefits: The position is full-time with federal benefits and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. The starting salary for the position will fall within a range of \$71,616 to \$176,200, and is heavily dependent on prior experience. The position is excepted service and does not

carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. Federal benefits include health and life insurance, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by direct deposit. Appointment and retention is subject to a satisfactory background check.

Job Description: An Assistant Federal Defender provides legal representation to clients charged with federal criminal offenses before federal magistrate and district courts in the Northern District of Texas, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the United States. We practice at the highest level and attorneys with the office have argued five times before the Supreme Court of the United States.



The typical caseload involves people charged with federal crimes ranging from possession of guns and drugs, immigration offenses, fraud, complex white collar fraud cases, and international and domestic terrorism. Responsibilities include managing a caseload; preparing original pleadings, motions and briefs; reviewing discovery documents, interviewing witnesses, developing litigation strategies, meeting with clients; working with experts; assisting CJA panel attorneys; and appearing on behalf of clients in court.



Travel is required. The Northern District of Texas covers a 96,000 square mile area and encompasses seven separate divisions. The Northern District runs from the tip of the Panhandle down through the plains of Lubbock to the big country of Abilene and San Angelo. The district boundary then turns east to the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and up to Wichita Falls. You will be constantly collaborating with lawyers and support staff in other divisions and occasionally find yourself defending cases in all divisions of the Northern District of Texas.

Requirements and Qualifications: The Assistant Federal Public Defender must be 1) a graduate of an accredited law school; 2) admitted to practice in good standing before a state bar by September 2022; and 3) have the ability to be licensed to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas no later than the initial hire date.

Federal criminal legal experience is preferred, but not required. Applicants must have strong writing and advocacy skills; an established capacity or demonstrated aptitude for excellence in criminal defense; a sterling reputation for personal and professional integrity; a commitment to the representation of indigent people; and an ability to work well in a team environment. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen or a lawful permanent resident who is eligible to work in the U.S., and is either currently seeking U.S. Citizenship or intends to become a U.S. Citizen when eligible. ***Fluency in Spanish is very desirable.***



Application Process: To apply, email to TXN_Employment@fd.org in a single Adobe PDF file using the subject line “AFPD-FW” 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.

Submissions that do not follow this format will not be considered. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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