

# FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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## Vacancy Announcement

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Position: Research and Writing Attorney – Capital Habeas Unit (CHU)

Location: Dallas Division

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

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The Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas is accepting applications for a full-time Research and Writing Attorney in the Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas. The CHU represents indigent defendants on death row in Texas. Through an interdisciplinary team approach, we provide our clients with the highest level of legal representation with respect to their convictions and death sentences. CHU attorneys regularly litigate in federal district court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Our attorneys are zealous advocates of the highest caliber, devoted to the defense of the indigent and enforcing the Bill of Rights.



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. Because no single person can do this work alone, you will work with experienced lawyers, mitigation specialists, and paralegals in the CHU and hear different perspectives. 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 Federal Public Defender's Office is committed to improving diversity in the legal profession. It is critical to our clients' representation that the office be comprised 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 populations. We seek candidates with a demonstrated commitment to working with marginalized communities and with clients from a range of backgrounds.

The successful applicant must be a talented legal writer, possess excellent research skills, be team oriented, and committed to indigent criminal defense. We practice at the highest level and attorneys with the FPD's office have argued four times before the Supreme Court of the United States. Most recently we won before the Court in a 5-4 decision in [\*United States v. Davis\*](#), 139 S. Ct. 2319 (2019).



The R&W attorney position is functionally equivalent to that of an AFPD. 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. There is no difference in salary.



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 third-year law student or are awaiting your bar exam results in the fall of 2019, we will consider your application.

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.***



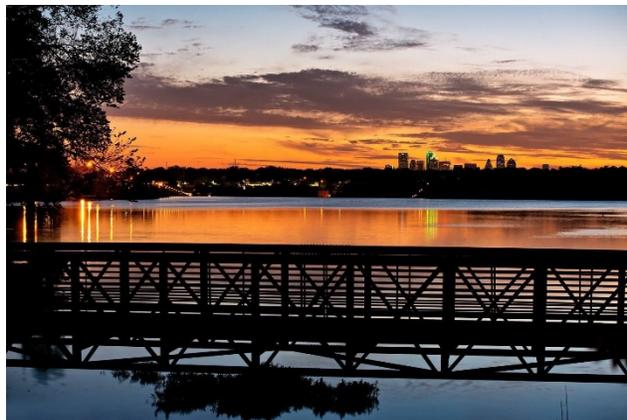
This position may require work on holidays, evenings, and weekends, as the nature of the cases require. This position also requires extensive travel. The CHU

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 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