



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEFENDER

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER

The Office of the Federal Defender for the District of Minnesota is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Defender (AFD). The Federal Defender provides defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters to individuals unable to afford counsel.

Duties. Represent clients charged with federal criminal offenses at both the trial and appellate level, carry a varied caseload through all stages of litigation and appear in court regularly. The MN FDO has an excellent reputation for providing high quality representation. The collegial and collaborative culture make it a great place to work for equal justice. The position requires some travel for investigation, litigation, and training. An AFD's professional pursuits must be focused only on serving our clients and they may not engage in the private practice of law.

Requirements. Applicants must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; and (2) eligible to be licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory background check and citizenship check.

Selection Criteria. The successful applicant must have an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in the practice of criminal defense, a commitment to the goal of making equal justice a reality, and a reputation for integrity. The applicant must also possess the ability to communicate effectively and have strong writing and oral advocacy skills. An applicant must have a demonstrated commitment to working with diverse communities and with clients from a wide range of backgrounds. Three or more years of state or federal criminal defense experience is strongly preferred, but not required.

Salary and Benefits. The salary of an Assistant Federal Defender is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The position offers federal government employment benefits, including participation in health and life insurance programs, retirement, and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit).

How to Apply. Interested applicants should email a letter of interest, a resume, a writing sample, and the names and contact information of three professional references to the attention of:
Katherian D. Roe, Federal Defender
c/o Sandy Krattley, Administrative Officer
via email to: sandy_krattley@fd.org
Subject: AFD position

Open Until Filled: Position posted February 9, 2026. No reference will be contacted without applicant's approval. Position subject to funding availability and Circuit approval.

*The Federal Defender is an equal opportunity employer.
All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.*