



FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

**Position: Research and Writing Attorney
Capital Habeas Unit**

Announced: May 04, 2022

Position No.: 2022-06

**Location: Cleveland, Ohio
First Review: June 13, 2022**

www.fpd-ohn.org/careers

WHAT WE DO:

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio zealously represents and defends indigent citizens in order to preserve, protect and defend the principle of equal justice for all. We do this in accordance with the Criminal Justice Act. We provide representation to individuals in federal criminal cases or under federal criminal investigation who are financially unable to retain counsel.

Our Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) focuses on the representation of State prisoners sentenced to death who have exhausted their claims through the State court appellate processes and who are seeking a final review of their claims in federal habeas corpus. The position entails representation of indigent defendants and assistance to other lawyers in the CHU who are engaged in federal habeas corpus capital work. Our habeas representation covers all stages of representation in federal court from the initial petition through the Circuit and Supreme Court stages of appeal and State clemency.

WHO WE ARE:

We are attorneys, paralegals, investigators, office administrators, information technology specialists, and legal assistants, dedicated to defending our fellow citizens by providing them with legal counsel. We are zealous advocates for our clients, providing independent trial and federal habeas corpus defense services free from outside influence. We represent every client within the guidelines of the laws, consistent with our professional ethics, and in accordance with all applicable rules of practice. We work together as a team of legal professionals to uphold every person's right to be presumed innocent, and when required, to a fair sentence. Our defense is vigorous at trial, sentencing, on appeal, and in capital post-conviction. We advocate for humane sentences by showing judges, prosecutors, and the Ohio Parole Board that we represent people, not criminals.

We are committed to cultivating a culture of acceptance and connectedness that honors the diverse backgrounds of the people we represent. We value diversity, and believe better legal representation occurs when members of the defense team have diverse backgrounds and experiences. We seek out and embrace the unique contributions that you can bring, including your culture, ethnicity, education, opinions, race, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran's status, religion, disability, and economic status.

WHO YOU ARE:

You are a trusted and reliable individual with a heart for public service. You put the client first while standing on your values, your personal and professional ethics, and your professionalism. You use sound judgment to carry out your responsibilities. You appreciate the importance of diversity. You always partner with other members of the office, seek out the opinions of your colleagues, and love to work as a team. You are candid in your advice, but respectful of others. You don't just recognize problems but identify solutions. You are a skilled writer and researcher. You harness your creativity, legal acumen, and writing skills to overcome difficult problem sets. Above all, you maintain your high standards while treating our clients and your co-workers with empathy and understanding.

JOIN OUR CHU TEAM:

Our CHU provides teams of legal professionals to save the lives of clients sentenced to death by state courts through creative litigation strategies developed in the course of federal habeas litigation or from Clemency presentations to the state Parole Board. The position requires excellent research, writing and oral advocacy skills, proficiency in computer-assisted legal research and word processing software (Word). More specifically, we seek applicants who have the skills to think creatively, listen attentively, ask questions, are detail oriented, and who appreciate and understand the historical significance of capital punishment and its relationship to race and slavery.

Familiarity with handling (capital) cases at post-conviction and appellate stages, particularly those litigated under Ohio state law, is a plus. Above all, applicants must have a strong commitment to providing first-rate representation to indigent persons and share a desire to reach across cultures and ethnicity in order to better work with and understand our clients and to zealously advocate as a Team member seeking to find solutions to complex legal situations. Additional preference is given to those applicants that are educated or have practical experience in mitigation work or relatedly, have relevant education, skill, or practical experience in fields of mental health, sociology, psychology, childhood trauma, and/or social work.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Interested persons must have graduated from an accredited law school, be a member in good standing of any state bar, or if not a member of the Ohio Bar be willing to pursue admission to the Ohio Bar, and be willing to obtain admission to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. A minimum of three years of practice is required.

Salary and Benefits. The starting salary for the position will be set commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the applicant within the range of Judiciary Salary Plan Grade of \$69,092- \$121,637, depending on experience and qualifications. Employees are considered at-will and are not covered by the Civil Service Reform Act. The position offers responsibility, independence, dynamic teamwork, and generous federal benefits. For information on benefits see <http://www.uscourts.gov/career/benefits>.

Employment is provisional pending the successful completion of a required background check. You must be a United States citizen or eligible to work in the United States. You must possess a valid driver's license. Travel by a personal vehicle may be required. This position precludes the private practice of law.

APPLY NOW:

Multiple positions will be filled from this advertisement. The first review of applications will be conducted after June 13, 2022. Applications received after June 13, 2022, will be reviewed only if a candidate is not selected from among the initial pool of applicants. Submit the following in a single Adobe .pdf document: a letter of interest, resume, a completed AO78 Application for Judicial Employment, three (3) references and a recent writing sample, limited to 10 pages, to ohn_employment@fd.org, subject line "2022-06 Research and Writing Attorney-CHU" by June 13, 2022. Due to the volume of applications anticipated, negative responses are not generated. The FPD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FEDERAL JUDICIAL BRANCH APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

If you need additional space, continue under "Remarks" listing item number

1. Name <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>	2. Phone Number
3. Present Address <i>(Street, City, State, Zip)</i>	
4. Email Address	
5. Other Names Previously Used for Employment Purposes	6. Date of Birth <i>(complete only for law enforcement positions)</i>

GENERAL

7. Are you a U.S. Citizen?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If no, give the Country of your citizenship _____
8. a. Were you ever a federal civilian employee?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, give highest civilian grade: _____ / _____ / _____ Pay Plan Grade Step
b. Are you receiving a federal civilian annuity payment?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
c. Are you receiving federal severance pay?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, give former agency contact/telephone: _____
d. Have you received a federal separation incentive payment in the past 5 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, state mo/yr received and former agency contact/telephone: _____
9. Do you have any relatives who are Judges, Officers or employees of the United States Courts?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, give their names, positions, and relationships to you. _____
10. Have you ever served on active duty with the military?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<i>(If selected, you will need to provide your DD-214 (copy 4), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, so that your service may be verified and credited)</i>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

11. During the last 5 years, have you been fired from any job for any reason, did you quit after being told that you would be fired, did you leave any job by mutual agreement because of specific problems, or were you debarred from Federal employment by the Office of Personnel Management or any other Federal agency?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, provide in Section 17 the date, explanation of problem, reason for leaving, and employer's name/address.
12. Are you delinquent on any Federal debt? <i>(Include delinquencies arising from Federal taxes, loans, overpayment of benefits, and other debts to the U.S. Government, plus defaults of Federally guaranteed or insured loans (e.g., student loan, home mortgage loan)).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	If yes, provide in Section 17 the type, length, and amount of delinquency/default, and steps being taken to correct the error/repay the debt.

WORK EXPERIENCE

(Start with your present position and work back 10 years. Include any military service. Use additional page if necessary.)

A

Dates of Employment <i>(mm/dd/yyyy)</i> From: _____ To: _____	Number of hours worked per week:	Exact Title of Your Position
Salary or Earnings Starting \$ _____ Per _____ Final \$ _____ Per _____	Pay Plan/Grade <i>(If in federal Service)</i>	Place of Employment City _____ State _____
Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor Business Telephone: <i>(Area Code and Phone Number)</i>		Name and Address of Employer <i>(firm, organization, etc.)</i>
Reason for Leaving		
Description of Work		

B

Dates of Employment <i>(mm/dd/yyyy)</i> From: _____ To: _____	Number of hours worked per week:	Exact Title of Your Position
Salary or Earnings Starting \$ _____ Per _____ Final \$ _____ Per _____	Pay Plan/Grade <i>(If in federal Service)</i>	Place of Employment City _____ State _____
Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor Business Telephone: <i>(Area Code and Phone Number)</i>		Name and Address of Employer <i>(firm, organization, etc.)</i>
Reason for Leaving		
Description of Work		

C

Dates of Employment (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>) From: _____ To: _____	Number of hours worked per week:	Exact Title of Your Position
Salary or Earnings Starting \$ _____ Per _____ Final \$ _____ Per _____	Pay Plan/Grade (<i>If in federal Service</i>)	Place of Employment City _____ State _____
Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor Business Telephone: (<i>Area Code and Phone Number</i>)		Name and Address of Employer (<i>firm, organization, etc.</i>)
Reason for Leaving		
Description of Work		

D

Dates of Employment (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>) From: _____ To: _____	Number of hours worked per week:	Exact Title of Your Position
Salary or Earnings Starting \$ _____ Per _____ Final \$ _____ Per _____	Pay Plan/Grade (<i>If in federal Service</i>)	Place of Employment City _____ State _____
Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor Business Telephone: (<i>Area Code and Phone Number</i>)		Name and Address of Employer (<i>firm, organization, etc.</i>)
Reason for Leaving		
Description of Work		

OPTIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION – RESPOND ONLY IF REQUIRED BY THE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Answer questions 18, 19, and 20, only if required by the vacancy announcement. Your answers should include convictions resulting from a plea of nolo contendere (no contest), but omit (1) traffic fines of \$300 or less, (2) any violation of law committed before your 16th birthday, (3) any violation of law committed before your 18th birthday if finally decided in juvenile court or under a Youth Offender law, (4) any conviction set aside under the Federal Youth Corrections Act or similar state law, and (5) any conviction for which the record was expunged under Federal or state law.

18. During the last 7 years, have you been convicted, imprisoned, on probation, or on parole? *(Include felonies, firearms or explosives violations, misdemeanors, and all other offenses)* YES NO If yes, provide in Section 21 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of police dept or court.

19. Have you been convicted by a military court-martial in the past 7 years? YES NO If yes, provide in Section 21 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of military authority or court.

20. Are you now under charges for any violation of law? YES NO If yes, provide in Section 21 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of police dept or court.

21. REMARKS *(Use this space for continuation of answers. List the item number being explained.)*

[Empty space for remarks]

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information on and attached to this application is true, correct, complete and made in good faith. I understand that false or fraudulent information on or attached to this application may be grounds for not hiring me, or firing me after I begin work, and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment. I understand that any information I give may be investigated.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE SIGNED _____