FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (TRIAL)

Posted: November 12, 2026 Location: Peoria, IL
Starting Salary Range: $76,748 to $180,078 Duration: Permanent, full-time
Closing date: Open until filled, preference given to applications received by November 30, 2026

The Federal Public Defender for the Central District of Illinois is accepting applications for an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Peoria Division. The Federal Public Defender's Office operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act 18 U.S.C. § 3006A to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters by appointment from the court to individuals unable to afford counsel. Our office is committed to providing the highest level of representation to our clients. The outside practice of law is prohibited.

Duties. As a trial Assistant Federal Public Defender, the successful applicant will lead a litigation team comprised of a paralegal, investigator, and mitigation specialist to provide each client with a thorough and zealous defense. The Assistant Federal Public Defender will appear in court, draft motions and legal memoranda, perform legal research, examine discovery, and meet with clients, family members, and witnesses. The selected candidate must be able to assume a caseload immediately and without significant supervision. The position requires regular travel to local detention facilities to visit detained clients and occasional travel to Chicago to appear before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Requirements. To qualify for this position, the applicant must:

- Be licensed by the highest court of a state, federal territory, or the District of Columbia.
- Be a member in good standing in all courts where admitted to practice.
- Have a minimum of three years' experience in criminal defense.
- Manage a full, varied caseload with charges such as firearms, drugs, fraud, sex offenses, and supervised release.
- Have a commitment to the zealous representation of indigent clients and a reputation for personal integrity.
- Communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, staff, the court, and other agency personnel.
- Possess excellent oral communication, research, and writing skills.
- Have a demonstrated ability to work with a team and coordinate the work of others.
- Be courteous, friendly, and professional with staff and clients.
- Have a valid driver's license and the ability to travel across the Central District of Illinois.

Spanish-language proficiency is desired but not required.

Salary and Benefits. Starting salary will be commensurate with experience. This position also offers full federal benefits, including:

- Federal Employees Retirement System
- Thrift Savings Plan with matching
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Dental and Vision insurance
- Annual leave
- Sick leave
- 11 paid holidays
- Paid Parental Leave
- Employee Assistance Program

Conditions of employment. Employees of the Federal Public Defender's Office are members of the judicial branch of government and are considered "at will" in the excepted service. Applicants must be United States Citizens or authorized to work in the United States. The successful candidate will be subject to a general background check as a condition of employment and may be subject to periodic updates. Direct deposit is required for payment of compensation to employees.

Application Information. Send the following, in **one** PDF document, to:

ilchr@fd.org

(1) letter of interest
(2) current and detailed resume
(3) three professional references familiar with applicant's legal skills
(4) recent writing sample that has not been edited by others
(5) completed AO78 Application for Judicial Employment

An email confirming receipt of the application materials will be sent to all applicants. Only those selected for interviews will receive further communication. ***No telephone inquiries please***. Costs associated with interviewing and relocation will not be reimbursed. All positions are subject to the availability of funds. For more information about our office, visit https://ilc.fd.org.

The Federal Public Defender for the Central District of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

AO 78 (5/24)

FEDERAL JUDICIAL BRANCH
APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

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

1. Name *(Last, First, Middle Initial)*

2. Phone Number

3. Present Address *(Street, City, State, Zip)*

4. Email Address

5. Place of Birth *(city/town, state, & country) (required for background investigation)*

6. Other Names Previously Used for Employment Purposes

7. Date of Birth *(complete only for law enforcement positions)*

N/A

GENERAL

8. Are you a U.S. Citizen? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If no, give the Country of your citizenship

9. a. Were you ever a federal civilian employee? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, give highest civilian grade: _____ / _____ / _____ (Pay Plan / Grade / Step)

b. Are you receiving a federal civilian annuity payment? ☐ YES ☐ NO

c. Are you receiving federal severance pay? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, give former agency contact/telephone: _____

d. Have you received a federal separation incentive payment in the past 5 years? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, state mo/yr received and former agency contact/telephone:

10. Do you have any relatives who are Judges, Officers or employees of the United States Courts? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, give their names, positions, and relationships to you.

11. Have you ever served on active duty with the military? ☐ YES ☐ NO *(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)*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

12. 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? ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, provide in Section 18 the date, explanation of problem, reason for leaving, and employer's name/address.

13. Are you delinquent on any Federal debt? *(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)).* ☐ YES ☐ NO — If yes, provide in Section 18 the type, length, and amount of delinquency/default, and steps being taken to correct the error/repay the debt.

EDUCATION

14. a. Do you have a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent? ☐ YES ☐ NO

b. Name and location of colleges or universities attended *(including law schools)*	Dates Attended mm/dd/yyyy Start	Finish	Credit Hours Quarter	Semester	Type of Degree (if applicable)	Date Received mm/dd/yyyy	Grade Point Average and/or scholastic standing

15. Other schools or training attended *(list name/location of school, dates attended, subject studied, certificates received, and other pertinent data):*

JOB RELATED SKILLS, AWARDS, SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

16. List any skills (e.g., language, computer, keyboarding speed), honors, awards, or special accomplishments (e.g., memberships in professional/honor societies, leadership activities, performance awards) that you believe are relevant to your ability to perform the job:

APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL POSITIONS

17. a. Are you admitted to the Bar? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, list the name of Bar(s) and date(s) of admission.

Name of Bar:_____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy):_____
Name of Bar:_____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy):_____

b. Is your Bar membership? ☐ ACTIVE ☐ INACTIVE

If active, list the name of Bar(s).

Name of Bar:_____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy):_____
Name of Bar:_____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy):_____

c. What was your scholastic standing in law school? ☐ UPPER ½ ☐ UPPER ⅓ ☐ UPPER ¼

d. Were you a member of an editorial board of law review or a moot court participant? ☐ YES ☐ No

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

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

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

Answer questions 19, 20, and 21, 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.

19. 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 22 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of police dept or court.
20. Have you been convicted by a military court-martial in the past 7 years?	☐ YES	☐ NO	If yes, provide in Section 22 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of military authority or court.
21. Are you now under charges for any violation of law?	☐ YES	☐ NO	If yes, provide in Section 22 the date, explanation of violation, place of occurrence, and name/address of police dept or court.

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

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 _____