FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota

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Federal Public Defender

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT FEDERAL DEFENDER (APPELLATE)

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is seeking an Appellate Assistant Federal Public Defender. The successful candidate may choose to office in **any of our branch locations: Bismarck, Fargo, Pierre, Rapid City, or Sioux Falls.** Our office provides high-quality, client-centered representation to individuals charged with federal crimes who cannot afford retained counsel, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act.

Why Our Office

We are a collegial, mission-driven office committed to excellent federal defense practice. Our attorneys engage in thoughtful, rigorous advocacy supported by experienced investigators, paralegals, and administrative staff. We value collaboration, mentorship, creativity, and sound judgment. Although this is an appellate-focused role, you will be part of a team-oriented environment that emphasizes respect, integrity, and mutual support – for our clients and one another.

Position Description

The appellate attorney primarily prepares briefs, motions, and petitions for rehearing or certiorari in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. The position includes presenting oral arguments in the Eighth Circuit and may involve post-conviction work in the district court subject to office needs. Additionally, the appellate attorney provides research and writing support to trial attorneys in district courts. Attorneys in this office may not engage in the private practice of law.

Required Qualifications

1. Graduation from an accredited law school.
2. Admission in good standing to practice before the highest court of a state or the District of Columbia.
3. Willingness to obtain bar admission in South Dakota and/or North Dakota within one year of starting employment.
4. United States citizenship or authorization to work in the United States.

We seek applicants with exceptional research and writing skills, a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense, and the ability to work collaboratively with attorneys, clients, court personnel, and agency staff. Creativity, sound judgment, and strong communication skills are highly valued.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with experience and ranges from **$76,748 -$180,078**. This is a full-time position with comprehensive federal benefits, including health and life insurance, retirement, and participation in the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is paid bi-weekly via direct deposit. Final offers are contingent upon funding availability and completion of a background investigation.

How to Apply
E-mail a **single PDF** containing a letter of interest, résumé, three references, and a recent writing sample to SDX_JOBS@fd.org with the subject line, "**Assistant Federal Defender (Appellate) – Position Announcement 26-11**".

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. More than one position may be filled from this announcement.

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply.

Position Announcement #26-11