

**Federal Public Defender
District of the U.S. Virgin Islands**

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2026-01

Assistant Federal Public Defender

Submission Deadline: November 9, 2026

The Office of the Federal Defender for the District of the Virgin Islands is accepting applications for an **Assistant Federal Public Defender**. The Federal Defender, a branch of the United States Courts, operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services to indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.

This Assistant Federal Public Defender position will concentrate on representing clients during appeals (both writing briefs and conducting appellate arguments) and assisting other attorneys with varied research and writing projects. Because the Office is actively litigating death penalty cases, this position may assist with research and writing projects in death penalty matters. It is not anticipated that this position will carry an active trial caseload, nor is capital experience required. **Because this position will largely focus on appellate cases and research and writing projects, well-qualified attorneys will be eligible for full-time remote work.**

Applicant must be a law school graduate and an active member in good standing of the bar in any state or territory. Applicants must have at least three years of demonstrated and documented experience. The successful applicant will have an established capacity or clearly demonstrated aptitude for excellence in criminal defense practice, a commitment to the representation of indigent accused persons, and a reputation for personal integrity. Applicant must possess excellent research, writing and oral advocacy skills, experience in computer-assisted legal research, and the ability to understand and manage complex factual and legal issues. Applicant must also possess the ability to communicate effectively with clients, witnesses, staff, colleagues, and other individuals that they will meet as part of their employment. Experience in handling federal criminal cases including the federal sentencing guidelines is strongly preferred. Applicants with experience in appellate and/or capital litigation are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Federal Defender litigates cases in the Division of St. Thomas/St. John and the Division of St. Croix. Must be willing to work flexible hours and travel to court locations, detention facilities in the mainland and Puerto Rico.

The starting salary for an Assistant Federal Public Defender is based upon qualifications and prior legal experience. This 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. This position is subject to mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) participation for payment of net pay.

To apply send cover letter, resume, three (3) professional references, and a recent writing sample via email to Matthew Campbell, Federal Public Defender at Socorro_Cruz@fd.org.

This position is subject to continued availability of funds.

The Office of the Federal Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer