

**OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

10 West Broad Street, Suite 1020
Columbus, OH 43215

**MITIGATION SPECIALIST/INVESTIGATOR - CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT
Position Announcement – 21-006**

The Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Ohio, is accepting applications for the position of Mitigation Specialist/Investigator in the Capital Habeas Unit, to be stationed in the Columbus office. The Federal Public Defender, a branch of the U.S. Courts, operates under the authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 USC 3006A, to provide defense services to indigent persons in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. The Capital Habeas Unit represents state death sentenced individuals in federal habeas and state clemency proceedings.

Duties: The Mitigation Specialist/Investigator will be a part of a team of attorneys, paralegals, and investigators representing individuals sentenced to death. This position plays an integral role in the fact investigation and development of penalty phase issues, including the development of mitigating evidence. The Mitigation Specialist/Investigator is responsible for creating and overseeing the fact investigation and planning and overseeing the development of mitigation evidence for the Unit's cases. Other duties include locating and interviewing witnesses, serving subpoenas, and locating and retrieving documents and other evidence.

Requirements: Applicants must have at least a high school diploma, or equivalent, and possess substantial fact investigation and mitigation experience, including the investigation and development of defense mitigation presentations in capital trials or post-conviction cases. Experience with mental health or social work issues, or experience with trial preparation within the federal courts can be substituted for demonstrated mitigation experience. Knowledge of federal and state court systems and familiarity with federal habeas corpus or other post-conviction litigation and/or complex federal civil or criminal litigation would be an asset.

The successful candidate will have strong written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills. They will be motivated, creative, resourceful and able to work with different types of people and personalities with tact, discretion, and compassion. They will also have the ability to work well with others in a team-based approach. Criminal defense experience is helpful but not required. Fluency in Spanish is also a strong plus. A reliable vehicle and a valid driver's license is required, as travel will be necessary.

Salary and Benefits: Starting salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the applicant. This position is excepted service and does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. The position does offer federal government employment benefits including health and life insurance, retirement and the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit).

Conditions of Employment: All application information is subject to verification. Appointment to the position is contingent upon a background investigation including an FBI fingerprint check. Employees of the Federal Defender are members of the judicial branch of government; they are considered 'at will' and can be terminated with or without cause.

Application Information: Qualified applicants should submit a letter of interest outlining experience, a resume, and three professional references, in PDF format, to OHS_employment@fd.org. This position will be open until filled.

The Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Ohio (FPD) is an equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The FPD provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis. One or more applicants may be selected from this posting.