

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
1000 Walnut, SUITE 600  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

**LAINÉ CARDARELLA**  
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

(816) 471-8282  
(FAX): (816) 471-8008  
Website: [mow.fd.org](http://mow.fd.org)

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT  
CHU RESEARCH AND WRITING SPECIALIST

The Federal Public Defender, Western District of Missouri, is accepting applications for the position of temporary full-time research and writing specialist for the Capital Habeas Unit stationed in Kansas City, Missouri, with the option to choose to telework full time. More than one position may be filled from this posting. The federal defender organization operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. The Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender's Office represents individuals under a sentence of death.

**About Us:** The Capital Habeas Unit was established in 2017 to provide federal habeas representation to Missouri's death row inmates. We also represent clients in other districts including Nebraska and Ohio. We represent clients in the final stages of litigation, including requests for clemency. We enjoy unconditional commitment to a client focused approach. We strive to show our clients respect, compassion, and dignity. We are sometimes a client's primary contact with the outside world, and we are sometimes part of a larger support system. Our clients often suffer from mental health conditions that challenge them, and us. We embrace those challenges. Each client is represented by a team comprised of at least two attorneys, at least one investigator, and at least one paralegal. We work closely with each other and foster a team approach which require mutual respect for every member of the team regardless of their role. All teams are supported by an internal and well-established office wellness initiative.

**Selection Criteria:** A research and writing specialist must be: (1) a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; (2) licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court by the time of entrance on duty. The ideal applicant will have a demonstrated interest in capital litigation and/or appellate work. Applicants must be able to show commitment to a client-centered, team-oriented criminal defense practice. While prior experience is considered, none is required. Regular and extended travel is often required.

**Salary and Benefits:** This is a temporary full-time position with a term of one year, with federal salary and benefits to include accrual of sick and annual leave at the rate of 4 hours respectively per bi-weekly pay period. The salary will be fixed commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the applicant within a range of JSP 9, Step 1 and JSP 15, Step 1 (currently \$55,419-\$132,838 in Kansas City, MO.) Employees of the Federal Public Defender's Office are members of the judicial branch of government. They are considered at will and do not carry the tenure rights of the Civil Service Reform Act. This position is subject to mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) participation for payment of net pay. The selected candidate will be subject to a successful FBI background check as a condition of employment.

**How to Apply:** Qualified persons may apply by submitting, in pdf format, a cover letter, resume, references, and writing sample, using subject line "CHU RWS" to: [fpdmow@gmail.com](mailto:fpdmow@gmail.com)

The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Missouri is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

**No telephone calls please.**

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL POSITION IS FILLED  
Preference given to applications received by August 21, 2022