BPDA Law School Fellowship Program

2027

BPDA

About Us

The Black Public Defenders Association (BPDA) is a movement-led organization that supports a national network of skilled Black defenders (trial-attorneys, social workers, investigators, civil defense, immigration, family defense, and client advocates) who fight against mass incarceration and other racist carceral systems. Building a pipeline of Black defenders is one of our core pillars.

About the Fellowship

The BPDA Law School Fellowship Program aims to provide training and support to Black law students who are passionate about serving their communities through a career in public defense. One of BPDA Law School Engagement Committee's central goals is to provide resources that ensure that Black law students are able to access and succeed in public defense as a profession that empowers marginalized communities. Each year, the Committee selects a number of promising Black law students to serve as BPDA Summer Fellows. Each Fellow receives mentorship, intensive skills training, and financial support that enables them to successfully complete a paid summer internship at a public defender office and be well positioned for post-graduate employment. Each fellowship host site provides their students with a stipend up to $5,000.

Housing Stipend

A housing stipend may be available based on demonstrated need. Please note that funds are limited and will be distributed accordingly.

ATLANTA

OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Atlanta Office of Public Defender is seeking rising 3Ls!

The City of Atlanta Office of the Public Defender is pleased to offer a Legal Internship Program designed for rising 3L law students who are interested in criminal defense, public interest law, and serving their communities. The program provides law students with a meaningful, hands-on opportunity to gain practical legal experience while working alongside experienced public defenders and legal professionals.

Interns will be exposed to the day-to-day practice of criminal defense and will have the opportunity to develop and strengthen essential legal skills, including legal research, legal writing, litigation, client advocacy, case preparation, and courtroom advocacy.

Through this internship, students may have the opportunity to:

- Gain practical experience in criminal defense litigation, including criminal and traffic matters;
- Assist attorneys with trial preparation, including case investigation, discovery review, legal research, and preparation of motions and other legal documents;
- Conduct legal research and assist with drafting motions, pleadings, memoranda, and other legal documents;
- Observe and, when appropriate, participate in court proceedings, hearings, and trials;
- Develop skills in client interviewing, case assessment, and zealous advocacy;
- Learn about the role and responsibilities of a public defender and the constitutional right to counsel;
- Work collaboratively with attorneys, investigators, social workers, client advocates, and other members of a holistic defense team;
- Gain insight into the intersection of criminal law, social services, and community resources through the Office's Holistic Defense Model; and
- Participate in professional development opportunities designed to enhance students' legal research, writing, litigation, advocacy, and professional skills.

The internship is designed to provide students with an understanding of the important role public defenders play in protecting constitutional rights, promoting equal justice, and ensuring that every client receives zealous, effective, and compassionate representation.

ORLEANS

PUBLIC DEFENDER

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Orleans Public Defenders are seeking 1Ls and 2Ls!

OPD is accepting applications for the Summer Law Clerk program. OPD's mission is to fight for our clients by providing excellent client-centered representation, reforming the system and partnering with the community. OPD is committed to representation that respects the humanity and dignity of those within the criminal legal system.

OPD's Summer Law Clerkship is an intensive 10-week, hands-on program. Law clerks assist attorneys in all aspects of criminal litigation including performing legal research, conducting factual investigation, drafting of memoranda and motions, analyzing discovery materials and preparing briefs.

Law clerks are required to abide by OPD's confidentiality policy, and to act at all times in the best interest of OPD's clients. Law clerks may be asked to do everything a staff attorney does for a client on a case short of speaking on the record in court. This may include, but not limited too:

- Legal research on a wide range of issues arising from the 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th Amendments;
- Writing memos, motions and writ application to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Louisiana Supreme Court;
- Visiting clients in jail, meeting with clients' families and/or defense witnesses both in and outside of the office;
- Investigating with the attorney, i.e. going to the crime scene, canvassing neighborhoods, interviewing complainants;
- Assisting attorneys at trial and substantive motions hearings;
- Digesting discovery and pretrial hearing transcripts;
- Observing during client counseling and plea negotiations.

The Summer Law Clerkship program runs from early June through early August.

Learn more at https://www.opdla.org or contact Hannah Basalone, hbasalone@opdla.org.

KALAMAZOO DEFENDER

All classes welcome!

Founded in 2019, Kalamazoo Defender is a non-profit public defense organization that fights for justice in the courts, care in the community, and dignity in the world. We are a holistic defense organization that takes a client-centered approach, aiming to assist clients not only with their legal challenges, but also some of the root causes of the challenges they are facing by connecting them to additional services in the community. We have a team of 67 (and growing!) working towards our mission.

The State of Michigan has a court rule, MCR 8.120, that allows law student Fellows in the public defense realm to appear on the record and advocate for clients under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

Pairing legal Fellows with at least two attorney mentors, interested candidates can expect to gain the following experience over a 10-week summer fellowship period:

- Comprehensive orientation and training
- On the record oral advocacy
- Client contact and consultation
- Research and writing
- Collaboration with investigators, client navigators, and paralegal staff
- A fun and supportive environment to learn

We take a "the sky is the limit" approach to our Fellows, trying to integrate and include them in the office as much as they would like. Previous Fellows have joined our attorneys for community events, office social events, and made lifelong friendships and mentorships. We have had several Fellows come on to work full time with us after they have graduated law school.

We require a minimum of 35 hours per week for 10 weeks over the summer with half days on Fridays. Housing is unfortunately not currently provided. Fellows are paid $28/hour with checks issued bi-weekly.

Kalamazoo is a mid-sized city located in Southwestern Michigan offering a diverse range of culture, experiences, and opportunities for candidates. We are located approximately 2.5 hours driving distance both from Chicago and Detroit.

DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Defender Association of Philadelphia is seeking 1Ls and 2Ls!

Looking to make a difference? Become a Defender!

The Defender Association is a non-profit public interest law firm representing over 70% of individuals charged with crimes in Philadelphia. We are committed to client-centered advocacy from arraignment through appeal, and we operate as part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes social workers, investigators, paralegals, mitigation specialists, and administrative professionals to represent the city's most vulnerable.

Our mission extends beyond the courtroom. Through Participatory Defense, expungement clinics, and community-based partnerships, we seek justice not just in legal outcomes but in the lives of our clients.

To qualify for our Rising 3L Summer Internship Program, you must be enrolled in an accredited law school and have completed the equivalent of at least 3 semesters of instruction by the summer. Our office will work with you and your law school to ensure the completion of all required documentation to become a Certified Legal Intern. As a Rising 3L Defender Summer Intern, you will have the chance to argue cases in court. Our goal is to provide participants with the opportunity to litigate various matters in court in the same manner as our first-year attorneys. Under the supervision of our office's law school clinic instructors, you will:

- Represent Defender clients at Preliminary Hearings, Motions to Suppress, and Municipal Court trials
- Draft, file, and argue motions and memoranda of law
- Interview clients via phone, in-person, and at county or state correctional facilities
- Analyze forensic evidence and draft memoranda outlining its significance to the case
- Participate in holistic representation practices to support clients with collateral consequences
- Collaborate closely with senior attorneys, social workers, investigators, and other Defender staff

As a Rising 2L Defender Summer Intern, though you will not be able to argue Preliminary Hearings, Motions, and Municipal Court Trials, you may have the opportunity to represent newly arrested clients during bail hearings at arraignment court. You will conduct client interviewing- both in the office and at the prisons- conduct legal writing assignments for various trial and pre-trial units, and have the chance to experience life as a Defender through rotations across the office's numerous practice units. 2L summer interns play an integral role at the Defender and are often asked to assist in trial preparation, mitigation, and research by senior attorneys. The 2L Defender Summer Internship is an excellent way to learn about the Philadelphia criminal legal system for those thinking about a career as a public defender. To qualify for the Rising 2L Defender Summer Internship, you will need to have completed your first year of law school by the summer.

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

NEW YORK

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

All classes welcome!

The Legal Aid Society is seeking three law school fellows—each to be embedded in one of our Practices: Criminal Defense, Civil, or Juvenile Rights. Fellows will gain experience in a wide variety of legal areas, with a special focus on immigration law.

Why This Fellowship Matters

Today, immigrants and other historically marginalized communities face increasing criminalization and systemic inequities. These individuals often navigate intersecting crises—for example, criminal charges that could lead to detention, deportation, or the loss of housing, employment, or child custody. As the only organization in New York City offering integrated representation across Criminal, Civil, and Juvenile Rights Practices, we are uniquely equipped to address these challenges holistically. Our work is bolstered by community outreach and public education initiatives that target the root causes of injustice.

An Unparalleled Fellowship Experience

We are the largest, most influential social justice law firm in the City, defending and advocating for the rights of generations of New Yorkers for nearly 150 years.

This fellowship offers the opportunity to learn and work alongside a diverse team recognized nationally for their impact and dedication. From day one, you will gain practical, real-world experience working closely with attorneys in your assigned Practice and our specialized Immigration Law Unit (ILU)—at a time when the fight for immigrant rights is especially urgent. Throughout the fellowship, you will have access to extensive resources and our vast professional network, helping you build a strong foundation for your career in social justice and law.

Our Teams Leading the Work

Criminal Defense Practice (CDP): As New York City's primary public defender, CDP offers strong courtroom defense while driving systemic reforms to reduce the lasting harm caused by criminal legal system involvement.

Civil Practice: The Civil Practice provides comprehensive legal support and leads advocacy in housing, government benefits, education, immigration, and domestic violence. Within Civil, the Immigration Law Unit (ILU) focuses on deportation defense, family reunification, protections for youth and survivors, legal status applications, and federal litigation challenging policies that violate immigrants' rights.

Juvenile Rights Practice (JRP): Representing over 24,000 children annually, JRP addresses a wide array of legal challenges and advocates for systemic reforms in juvenile justice, education, and child welfare.

For more information, please contact KClinton@legal-aid.org.

LOS ANGELES

COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Los Angeles County Public Defender is seeking rising 3Ls!

The Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender is seeking rising 3L students for our Law Clerk Program. Our Law Clerk Program introduces law students to the operations of the criminal justice system under the mentorship of experienced criminal defense attorneys.

Law Clerks have opportunities to participate in a wide range of assignments within our robust interdisciplinary practice, including misdemeanor and felony trials, our juvenile justice division, and other specialized units. Law Clerks assist Deputy Public Defenders with a variety of projects, including participating in client interviews, case strategy meetings, and court proceedings. Law Clerks may complete research and writing projects, including briefs, investigative requests, and motions to be filed in court.

Law Clerks may obtain certification from the California State Bar and appear on the record in limited circumstances under the supervision of an experienced attorney.

For more information, please contact Jac'queline Baskerville at JBaskerville@pubdef.lacounty.gov.

MINNESOTA

BOARD OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

M I N N E A P O L I S , M N

All classes welcome!

Are you looking for a rewarding summer experience? Join the State of Minnesota Board of Public Defenders!

We are proud to offer a robust Summer Law Clerk program that not only provides valuable, hands-on experience, but a great starting salary of $20.00/hour, a housing stipend of up to $1,500 (if eligible), and up to 12-weeks for full-time employment (40-hours a week)!

Under general supervision of the Managing Attorney or Chief Public Defender, Summer Law Clerks can expect to perform an array of duties of ranging difficulty.

Summary of duties

- Provide direct services to clients in your district community
- Legal research
- Drafting briefs
- Interview clients
- Assist in trial preparation
- Attend and participate in court proceedings under the rules of Student Practice
- Perform other duties assigned

Knowledge, skills, and abilities

- Knowledge of criminal law, criminal procedures, legal writing, principles of legal research
- Considerable skill in interviewing and listening; written and oral communications; preparing and organizing materials for use by others; and analysis of facts and data
- ability to use legal research tools; develop written and oral reports; complete assignments under time constraints; perform duties independently, organize workflow efficiently, set priorities, and meet deadlines; handle confidential and sensitive information with discretion; and provide staff attorneys with a variety of legal processes

Additional information

- More about office locations: MN Board of Public Defense
- Learn more about Minnesota: Minnesota Vacations & Travel Guide: Explore Minnesota
- Position may be eligible for externship credit – please check with your local institution for eligibility requirements.
- If you are an out of state applicant and interested in learning more about specific judicial districts, please reach out to Bri Scott at Brianna.Scott@pubdef.state.mn.us and additional resources can be supplied.

BRONX DEFENDERS

BRONX, NY

The Bronx Defenders are seeking 2Ls!

The Bronx Defenders (BxD)—an innovative, progressive, holistic indigent defense office in the South Bronx—seeks passionate second-year (2L) law students committed to public defense to join our Criminal Defense, Family Defense, Civil Action, Immigration, and Impact Litigation Practices for our Summer Legal Internship Program.

Over a period of 10 weeks, The Bronx Defenders Legal Summer Internship provides a unique opportunity for interns to receive extensive training in various legal disciplines and play an integral role in holistic defense. Legal interns receive comprehensive orientation with an introduction to all of our interdisciplinary practice areas and special projects, gain invaluable client interactions, participate in a summer-long intensive legal skills training series, undergo formal and informal mentorship and networking opportunities, and have the opportunity to advocate for clients in legal settings on the record.

For more information about our various practice areas: Civil Action Practice, Criminal Defense Practice, Family Defense Practice, Immigration Practice, and Impact Litigation Practice, please visit our website: https://www.bronxdefenders.org/our-work/defending-new-yorkers/

For inquiries about our Summer Legal Internship scheduling, expectations, and hiring process, please email: hiring@bronxdefenders.org

CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC DEFENDER

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CA

At Contra Costa Public Defenders (CCPD), we are committed to delivering vigorous, client-centered advocacy for indigent individuals accused of crimes in Contra Costa County. Our mission is grounded in the belief that justice is best served when all individuals, regardless of their status, receive the same level of attention, dignity, and respect. Located in the diverse San Francisco Bay Area, our practice spans urban, suburban, and rural communities, making it a unique and dynamic place to practice. We confront the dramatic racial disparities that exist in our local criminal legal process by zealously and successfully pursuing trials over pleas. CCPD brings a far higher percentage of cases to trial than other California counties. Our holistic approach includes a dedicated social work team, immigration specialist, mental health and post-conviction units, and an in-house forensics specialist, among others. We also focus on strategic litigation, police accountability, and racial justice, supported by our Racial Justice Unit and our Racial Justice and Diversity Committee.

Our 10-week Law Clerk Program offers valuable experience for law students interested in the field of indigent criminal defense. 1Ls and 2Ls, are integrated into one of our three offices, where they engage directly with attorneys on active cases. This involvement includes interviewing clients, researching and drafting pretrial motions, and potentially participating in jury trials. Certified law clerks may also have the opportunity to argue motions in court under the supervision of an attorney. This hands-on experience is complemented by a comprehensive orientation covering key areas of public defense law, and each law student is paired with a mentor attorney to guide their professional development.

Interested law students should email Ms. Jermel Thomas at CCPDInternships@pd.cccounty.us to apply. We look forward to welcoming dedicated individuals who share our commitment to justice and advocacy.
Learn more at www.cocopublicdefenders.org.

COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Colorado Office of the State defender is seeking 2Ls!

The Colorado Office of the State Public Defender offers a unique opportunity for students and volunteers to experience the work of indigent criminal defense. We offer opportunities to prelaw, current law students, paralegal students, undergraduates, and social work candidates. We are providing opportunities to 2L certified eligible law students for the BPDA Summer Fellowship program. Certified intern positions are available for law students who have completed their second year of sixty credit hours at an accredited law school. Interns are eligible for certification under Colorado's student practice rule, and have submitted the Certificate of Eligibility Form to the Colorado Supreme Court Attorney Registration Office. Certified interns are assigned casework involving misdemeanors, traffic or juvenile delinquency cases. Under the supervision of a licensed public defender, certified interns prepare cases outside of court, litigate motions, conduct pretrial and post-trial hearings and try cases to juries. The internship is an extraordinary opportunity to receive intensive courtroom advocacy experience. Summer certified interns participate in a rigorous training program before they begin their internship.

Off-summer semesters are perfect times to engage in a certified internship with any of our offices. These semesters are longer than the summer session and therefore provide you with an opportunity to establish and exercise a new set of skills that you will use in your future public defender career. Interns in the Appellate Division work on a variety of research and writing projects for attorneys in the Division under the direction of the intern coordinator. Qualified applicants must possess excellent research and writing skills and have successfully completed courses in criminal law and criminal procedure. The Appellate Division typically hosts interns after their second year of law studies.

For additional information on our internship programs, learn more at: https://www.coloradodefenders.us/join-our-team/inters-externs-volunteers/ or contact joyce.akhahenda@coloradodefenders.us.

BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES

BROOKLYN, NY

BDS is seeking 2Ls!

BDS is a public defense office representing low-income New Yorkers in criminal, family, immigration, and civil legal matters. For nearly 30 years, BDS has worked, in and out of court, to protect and uphold the rights of individuals and to change laws and systems that perpetuate injustice and inequality. Our legal expertise work with clients is focused on the intersections of these legal systems that disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities living in poverty.

BDS represents thousands of people each year who have diverse, complex, and multi-faceted legal needs. In addition to a zealous legal defense, our interdisciplinary teams of attorneys, social workers and advocates provide a wide range of legal and advocacy services, including for housing, public benefits, education, and employment. BDS staff work collaboratively and across disciplines to deliver high-quality legal services that serve the people we represent, their families and communities.

Students in the Criminal Defense Practice Internship Program participate in a comprehensive training program that includes substantive legal training as well as practical skills training. Each intern is assigned to work primarily with at least two staff attorneys and receives intensive supervision of and feedback on their work. Common intern tasks include interviewing clients at arraignments, researching legal issues, drafting motions, and helping attorneys prepare for hearings and trial. Our student practice order enables law students to appear in court under the supervision of an admitted attorney, and most students have opportunities to appear in court.

VIRGINIA DEFENDERS

All classes welcome!

Virginia Defenders BPDA Fellowships expose law students to all aspects of work as a Public Defender. Fellows work with mentors assigned to them in the Public Defender Office to assist with case preparation and observe misdemeanor and felony criminal trials in general district, juvenile, and circuit courts. Third-year practice-qualified students gain trial experience under the supervision of Virginia Defenders attorneys.

Virginia Defenders Fellows have daily contact with a wide spectrum of agencies involved in the criminal justice system as well as meeting with bondsmen, probation officers, magistrates, Commonwealth Attorneys, police officers, substance abuse counselors, and clients in the course of their duties. Additionally, Virginia Defenders fellows may also interview clients, perform legal research, assist with the investigation, and visit various correctional centers, the Virginia Appellate Courts, the Division of Forensic Science, drug courts, and substance abuse treatment facilities.

Virginia Defenders Fellows without third-year practice certificates will make $18/hour, while Virginia Defenders Fellows with third-year practice certificates will make $22/hour.

Fellowship will last 10-12 weeks.

Participating Offices: https://www.vadefenders.org/Virginia Defenders_offices

Please indicate the office in which you would be interested in interning.

For more information contact aharris@vadefenders.org or recruiting@vadefenders.org.

COMMITTEE

FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

B O S T O N , M A

CPCS is seeking 2Ls and 3Ls!

CPCS is the state agency in Massachusetts responsible for providing an attorney when the state or federal constitution or a state statute requires the appointment of an attorney for a person who cannot afford to retain one. The agency provides representation in criminal, delinquency, youthful offender, family regulation, guardianship, mental health, sexually dangerous person, and sex offender registry cases, as well as in appeals and post-conviction and post-judgment proceedings related to those matters. The clients we represent are diverse across every context imaginable and bring many unique cultural dimensions to the matters we address. This reality creates a critical need for CPCS staff to be culturally competent and able to work well with people of different races, ethnicities, genders and/or sexual orientation identities, abilities, and limited English proficiency, among other protected characteristics. Summer Fellows will work closely with attorneys, Social Services Advocates, and Investigators by providing legal representation and advocacy to indigent clients who are charged with criminal offenses in both the District and Superior Courts. Trial offices will provide Summer Fellows with a wide range of opportunities, including, but not limited to, legal research and writing, arraignment and bail advocacy, second seating trials, pretrial investigations including visiting crime scenes, locating and interviewing witnesses. The 10–week program will award a stipend of $7000 or more (based on the minimum wage in Massachusetts at the time of the fellowship).

CENTRAL REGION

The Central Region is famous for its rich history. Boston is not only the capital of the Commonwealth but one of the oldest municipalities in the United States and the scene of several significant events in the American Revolution, such as the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, the Battle of Bunker Hill, and the Siege of Boston. It was a port and manufacturing hub and a center of education and culture, as well as home to the first public park, public school, and subway system in the United States. The area is home to professional sports teams, including Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, and the Boston Red Sox. Roxbury is known to serve as the "heart of black culture in Boston" and is home to an extremely diverse population. The city of Quincy is recognized as the "City of Presidents" as it was the birthplace of John Adams, and his son John Quincy Adams, as well as, John Hancock, who was president of the Continental Congress and first signor of the Declaration of Independence, and first and third governor of Massachusetts. This city was home to the first commercial railroad in the United States and had a thriving granite industry. The Central Region of CPCS includes Public Defender Division office locations in Boston, Roxbury, and Quincy.

WASHINGTON STATE

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Law Student Rural Public Defense Fellowship (RPDF) is an intensive 10-12 week, hands-on experience. Fellows will be placed in a supportive, active public defense office in one of Washington's rural or underserved communities. Fellows will be paired with experienced and dedicated public defenders who will provide mentorship.

Fellows can expect to engage in all aspects of criminal litigation, including performing legal research, conducting fact investigations, drafting of memoranda and motions, analyzing discovery, preparing briefs, representing clients in court.

The WA state Office of Public Defense will provide intensive skills training, financial support and resources to Fellows and their mentors.

Benefits of the Rural Public Defense Fellowship include:

- Real-world training including court and client experience
- Placement in an underserved community with unique challenges and opportunities
- Opportunity to gain extensive understanding of criminal law and procedure and develop practical expertise beyond the level offered in law school courses
- Invaluable experience to prepare for a career in public defense
- Housing Stipend up to $900 a month for three months
- Financial compensation of up to $28 an hour (40 hours/week)

Who qualifies for the RPDF:

- Rising 3rd Year Law Students who have completed 2/3 of their law school's 3-year program.
- Recent J.D. graduate (9 months or less) from an approved law school who has not been admitted to practice in any state or territory.
- Willing and able to relocate to one of Washington's rural communities and work 40 hours/week for 10-12 weeks.

For more information about our fellowship, please contact nat.Jacob@opd.wa.gov.

PAN HANDLE AREA

PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

T E X A S

The Panhandle Area Public Defender Office is seeking 2Ls and 3Ls!

The Panhandle Area Public Defender Office (PAPDO) has three office locations (Amarillo, Dumas, and Hereford) from which we serve indigent clients in 6 counties in the Texas Panhandle. The PAPD represents persons who are not financially able to hire legal counsel in their felony, misdemeanor or juvenile cases, and in some instances, their appeals.

As an intern you will be mentored by a seasoned attorney, assisting in felony, misdemeanor, and youth defense, plea negotiations, defense courtroom litigation, counsel at bail hearing, jury trial preparation, jury trials, and appeals.

The Panhandle Area Public Defenders are zealous advocates and trial lawyers serving the needs of our clients with qualified, compassionate, and holistic solutions. Our offices strive to mirror the hard-working demographics of the Texas Panhandle area with a resolute determination, a heart for service, and a justice-seeking spirit.

We are THE voice for the defense.

KING CO.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

King County Department of Public Defense is seeking 2Ls!

The Department of Public Defense (DPD) is actively recruiting 2nd year law students to participate in a 10-week internship beginning in June. Students with a Rule 9 license can appear on the record, under supervision. DPD's internship program gives students meaningful opportunities to engage directly with clients and to appear in court with the support of experienced public defenders.

DPD represents indigent clients in several practice areas: criminal defense (felonies and misdemeanors), juvenile defense, family defense, involuntary civil commitment, sex offender commitments, and contempt of court. Most students will be offered an internship in a single practice area and should express any preference in their cover letter.

Job Duties
Assist attorneys and appear on the record at: arraignment hearings; pretrial hearings; motion hearings; sentencing and probation review; or, if placed in civil practice areas, other hearings relevant to that practice (shelter care, review hearings, etc.). Assist with trial preparations (DPD makes an effort to provide but cannot guarantee trial experience). Communication with clients as well as social workers, service providers, and other individuals involved in a client's case. Other duties as requested.

Experience, Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills
By June, the student will have completed two years of law school and be enrolled and in good academic standing at an American Bar Association approved law school. Able to qualify as a Rule 9 Licensed Legal Intern, under the WSBA rule. A demonstrated interest in representing indigent persons. Possess good moral character and fitness to practice law (APPs 20-24).

Effective writing and communication skills. Organizational and problem-solving skills. Initiative and accountability for work product or service. Ability to follow oral and written instructions. Ability to maintain confidentiality. Knowledge of the operation of standard office equipment that may include personal computers, copiers, and fax machines. Ability to multitask and self-direct in a fast-paced environment.

Multilingual skills are a plus. Completed at least one of the following courses: evidence, criminal procedure, and a clinical or trial advocacy course.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. To be considered for this opportunity, applicants must complete both the BPDA Law School Fellowship application and the King County Department of Public Defense application. Applicants who do not complete both applications will not be considered.

FPD

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

DISTRICT OF OREGON

FPD Oregon is seeking rising 2Ls and 3Ls!

The Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon is seeking students for our Law Clerk Program. Our Law Clerk Program introduces law students to federal criminal defense work under the mentorship of experienced federal public defense attorneys.

The Federal Public Defender represents people who cannot afford a private federal criminal defense attorney who are charged with federal crimes, including bank robbery, gun and drug crimes, immigration violations, and various frauds. The Federal Public Defender is committed to the pursuit of justice through zealous advocacy in federal court for the constitutional rights and inherent dignity of individuals who are accused or convicted of crimes and cannot afford their own lawyer.

We advance the rights of all individuals by developing innovative approaches in our representation that promote systemic change and by serving as a valuable resource to the larger legal community. We know that a diversity of experiences and perspectives enhances our work. Therefore, we invest in recruiting, training, and retaining colleagues who demonstrate experience with, knowledge of, and sensitivity to the needs of culturally diverse and oppressed populations.

Law clerks assist the defenders by researching legal issues and drafting trial memoranda, motions to suppress, jury instructions, appellate briefs, and other legal writing. Typical research topics involve search and seizure issues, the right to counsel, outrageous government misconduct, evidence questions, and constitutional issues in habeas cases.

In addition to the research and writing, clerks also learn from observing proceedings in the U.S. District Court and the Ninth Circuit, and to attend attorney staffings, meetings, and moot court arguments. Students also help interview clients and negotiate cases on the monthly violation and misdemeanor docket. Certified law clerks may have the opportunity to represent clients in misdemeanor bench trials. See https://or.fd.org or email Oregon_Personnel@fd.org for more information.

MEET THE TEAM

BPDA Law School Fellowship Program

Alaina Bloodworth is a fierce advocate for BPDA's mission. She attended Southern University A&M College where she received both her B.S. in Elementary Education and her Juris Doctorate. Previously, she served as a public defender and the Director of Students, managing the training and hiring of student law clerks and investigators.

Jonteal Hasty attended Seton Hill University where she received a B.A in history with a minor in Legal Studies and International Studies. She then went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from University of DC, David A. Clarke School of Law in 2022. She currently serves as a public defender in Indianapolis, Indiana in the CHINS/TPR division working diligently with parents to get their children back from the State.

Thank You

For more information visit
blackdefender.org/bpda-fellowship-program