

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT
RESEARCH AND WRITING SPECIALIST

POSITION #: 2009-06-CRWS
ANNOUNCED: September 4, 2009
CLOSES: September 25, 2009 (or until filled)

The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Pennsylvania is seeking a Research and Writing Specialist for its Capital Habeas Unit (CHU). The CHU represents death-sentenced prisoners in federal habeas corpus proceedings in the United States District Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. This is a full-time position located in Pittsburgh.

The Research and Writing Specialist is an attorney position that provides advanced legal research and writing services to the CHU attorneys, who represent Pennsylvania state prisoners in federal capital habeas corpus proceedings. The Specialist's duties include staying abreast of the latest developments in habeas corpus and criminal procedure; disseminating this knowledge to Assistant Federal Defenders in the CHU; drafting petitions and appellate briefs in the federal courts; analyzing and researching records; client contact and correspondence; and field work, including gathering records and conducting investigation. Research and Writing Specialists are permitted to appear in court only in exceptional circumstances. Overnight travel may be required.

Candidates for this position must possess a law degree and be a member in good standing of a state bar. Admission to the Pennsylvania bar is not required, but would be helpful. Applicants must have demonstrated proficiency in legal research and writing, as well as a commitment to the representation of indigent persons. Criminal defense and/or capital experience preferred, but not required. Recent law school graduates with demonstrated commitment to capital representation and with excellent academic backgrounds will be considered. The successful applicant will be required to undergo a background check. **This position closes September 25, 2009, or when filled.**

Salary will be based on years of experience and consistent with federal guidelines and regulations. Qualified persons may apply by submitting a cover letter, resume and writing sample to:

Lisa B. Freeland
Federal Public Defender
ATTENTION: 2009-06-CRWS
1500 Liberty Center
1001 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3714