

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

10 West Broad Street, Suite 1020  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Position Announcement**

17-009

**MITIGATION INVESTIGATOR**

The Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Ohio, is accepting applications for the position of Investigator/Mitigation Specialist 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.

**Duties:** The Investigator/Mitigation Specialist will assist attorneys representing indigent clients accused in federal court in investigating, analyzing, developing and presenting mitigation evidence. Will gather and summarize social history records, identify and locate community resources, and assist in developing mitigation for clients. Will identify and locate social history records and will discover and conduct interviews with lay and professional people with relevant knowledge about the client's early childhood development, education, employment and medical and mental health history. The mitigation investigator will also consult with experts, develop and maintain relationships with clients, their family members, local social service providers, pretrial service officers, and perform other tasks as required. Will assist lawyers as needed, to investigate case, and gather, review, and analyze records. Will prepare and submit written report as needed.

**Requirements:** To qualify for this position, a candidate must have a graduate degree in Social Work (forensic social work is a plus) with at least three years of general experience and two years of specialized experience. Specialized experience includes investigation and development of mitigation evidence or employment in the social work field. Some higher education may substitute for specialized experience. Candidates should possess excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships and the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. A working knowledge of legal terminology, court procedures and a thorough understanding of computer programs (including Word, Excel, Adobe, PowerPoint and other Windows-based applications). Understanding of the Internet and computer hardware and software, camera, video and other technical equipment is also required. Experience in videography and/or fluency in Spanish are pluses.

**Salary and Benefits:** **This position will work 4 days (32 hours) a week.** 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 send a letter of interest, current detailed resume and references in **PDF format** to [OHS\\_employment@fd.org](mailto:OHS_employment@fd.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled with priority given to applications received before August 1.

*The Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Ohio is an equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The FDO 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. This position is subject to the availability of funds.*