

**ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS: PARENTAL DEFENSE DIVISION
BALTIMORE CITY AND BALTIMORE COUNTY**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD), Parental Defense Division (PDD) is seeking litigators with a skill set that can be effectively applied to defend parents and legal guardians in CINA/TPR proceedings. This Division represents parents and/or legal guardians whose children have been removed or are at risk of being removed from their care and custody by the State. Attorneys represent clients in adversarial proceedings from the initial Emergency Shelter Care Hearing to the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) trial. The PDD fully embraces and is committed to the Office of the Public Defender's core values that include a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and united as a team in achieving the Agency's mission of "*Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All.*"

OVERVIEW

An Assistant Public Defender in the Parental Defense Division is a critical thinker with a demonstrated ability to apply legal analysis in an area of the law that may be unsettled. S/he must be willing to challenge the system with a healthy sense of outrage and be persistent in the face of ambiguity or outright resistance to her/his position. The Assistant Public Defender must be able to handle crisis, a variety of personalities, and multitask in a fast-paced, high pressure environment. These position(s) will be located in Baltimore City and Baltimore County with an anticipated start date in September 12, 2018. The Baltimore City attorneys handle cases in the Baltimore City metropolitan area and the Baltimore County attorneys handle cases in Baltimore Howard, Carroll, and Harford Counties.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Protect clients' constitutional rights to raise and rear their children.
- Defend clients against allegations of neglect and/or abuse.
- Zealously and compassionately advocate on behalf of clients at every stage of the proceeding.
- Engage in motions practice.
- Engage in legal research and writing.
- Obtain, organize, and review voluminous records, documents, and court orders, to assist with preparing a defense.
- Negotiate on behalf of clients.
- Develop and maintain client relationships over the extended life of the case.
- Be non-judgmental and empathetic of clients who present with challenges and/or barriers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Prior experience in litigation including, CINA/TPR, Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, or Family Law (*experience may include internships, law school clinical programs, or any other relevant experience*)
- Ability to work independently and effectively manage a high volume caseload with short deadlines
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, team oriented environment
- Strong communication and client advocacy skills
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or Bar of another State*

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position please submit a: (1) current resume, (2) cover letter addressing the above qualifications, (3) list of references, (4) completed Application Essay (available on our website under "Careers"), and (5) law school transcript (required only if applicant is three or less years out of law school). All items must be submitted electronically in **one email** to **attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us**. In the subject line of the email please indicate "APD, Parental Defense Division Baltimore." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 25, 2018

The OPD is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to building a culturally diverse staff and strongly encourage people historically underrepresented in the practice of law to apply. Assistant Public Defenders are full-time employees who serve at the pleasure of the Public Defender. Criminal Procedure Art., Section 16-203(d). They cannot engage in the private practice of law while in this position.

*Individuals who are members of the Bar of another State must be admitted in the Maryland Bar within 18 months of start date.