

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER: IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provides superior representation to indigent defendants throughout the State of Maryland. The Agency's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All*. OPD's immigration staff provides support to our attorneys and staff in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky*. All OPD employees are committed to the core values of a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and are united as a team in achieving the Agency's mission.

OVERVIEW OF THE POSITION

An Immigration Attorney with OPD combines his/her demonstrated dedication to the representation of indigent clients with his/her understanding of immigration law to provide support and advice to public defenders regarding any possible immigration consequences. The attorney in this position will work closely with other members of the immigration team and independently provide support (in the form of both training and case consultation) to Maryland Assistant Public Defenders and staff regarding the intersection of immigration law and the criminal justice system. The attorney in this position is not expected to represent individuals either in criminal court or in immigration court. This position will be primarily located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland with some travel within the state of Maryland

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of and in coordination with the current immigration attorney, the attorney in this position will:

- Provide advice to public defenders on the immigration consequences of clients' criminal charges and convictions, and wherever possible, provide strategic guidance on ameliorating those consequences.
- Produce written practice advisories and other educational materials regarding immigration law and criminal consequences for our public defenders.
- Help prepare materials for and help conduct educational sessions for OPD attorneys and others as appropriate (e.g., intake staff, panel attorneys, social workers).
- Expand and strengthen the OPD Immigration Team (currently approximately 50 full time public defenders working in offices statewide) by:
 - Working individually and in small groups with Team members to expand members' knowledge of immigration law and procedure and awareness of the OPD immigration resources.
 - Contacting Team members' individually by telephone or in person on a regular basis.
 - Identifying additional useful resources and making them available to Team members and OPD staff.
 - Identifying additional potential Team members.
 - Helping plan and organize, and participating in immigration trainings for Team members.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated commitment to zealous, comprehensive public defense.
- Immigration law experience (minimum 5 years).
- Criminal defense experience or exposure (strongly preferred).
- Spanish language fluency (strongly preferred).
- Exceptional organizational and time management skills.
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or the bar of another state. If member of a bar of another State, the applicant must become admitted to the Maryland Bar within 18 months of employment with OPD.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position please submit a: (1) current curriculum vitae, (2) cover letter addressing the above qualifications, (3) writing sample and (4) list of references. All materials must be submitted electronically in **one email** to attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us. In the subject line of the email please indicate "Immigration Attorney." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: APRIL 27, 2017

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Assistant Public Defenders are full-time employees who serve at the pleasure of the Public Defender and cannot engage in the private practice of law while in this position.