

## **ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER: JUVENILE DIVISION, BALTIMORE CITY (DISTRICT I)**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) seeks a zealous and dedicated litigator to represent juveniles in delinquency matters in Baltimore City, Maryland. OPD provides superior representation to indigent clients throughout the State of Maryland. The Agency's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All*. 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**

At the Baltimore City Juvenile Defenders we provide consistent client-centered representation to our clients from their first court appearance through their entire case. Our vertical representation model leads to deep and lasting client relationships and continuity of representation across years and cases. Assistant Public Defenders must demonstrate strong oral and written litigation skills. The position requires innovative thinking, investigative skills, and the ability to work independently in managing an active juvenile caseload. Attorneys work in conjunction with social workers and core staff in a team-oriented environment. Attorneys must be able to balance a client-centered approach to representation with advocacy to address systemic inequity and the collateral consequences that lead to deeper system involvement. The anticipated start date for this position will be in September, 2019.

### **PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Represent youth at arraignment, adjudication, disposition, and post-disposition hearings.
- Represent clients in administrative matters related to conditions of confinement and access to treatment.
- Work to identify and advocate for solutions to systemic issues.
- Work collaboratively with social workers and core staff to assist clients and their families in matters related to housing, education, school discipline, mental health, and other collateral matters that contribute to deepening system involvement.
- Investigate, develop, and litigate novel and cutting edge Constitutional arguments in order to advance and expand the rights of young people in contact with the juvenile justice system.
- Competently, independently, and resourcefully manage a full caseload.
- Communicate with clients, family members, team members, and resources for optimal client outcomes.
- Take proactive steps to communicate with clients, attorneys, community partners, and other agency employees to resolve challenges in an open, constructive, and professional manner.

### **TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Demonstrated commitment to zealous and comprehensive defense practice, including the ability to represent clients in juvenile, criminal, and administrative hearings.
- Criminal trial experience preferred, specific experience representing juveniles strongly preferred.
- Strong oral and written advocacy skills.
- Knowledge, training, and experience related to adolescent development, neuroscience, education, mental health treatment, and best practices for juvenile rehabilitation.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment.
- Ability to work independently, and effectively manage an active caseload.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including possessing the cultural competence necessary to collaborate with diverse staff, client base, and stakeholder groups. Proven communication skills with children and adolescence.
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or Bar of another State by August, 2019.\*

### **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply for this position please submit the following materials in an email to [attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us](mailto:attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us): (1) current resume, (2) cover letter, (3) list of references, (4) writing sample, (5) transcript (if graduated from law school within the past 3 years), and (6) completed Applicant Essay (available on our website under "Careers"). In the subject line of the email please indicate "APD Juvenile, District I." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### **CLOSING DATE: MARCH 1, 2019**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender 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). Assistant Public Defenders 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 to the Maryland Bar within 18 months of start date.