

# The Federal Defender Services Program is pleased to announce the launch of its Diversity Fellowship Program.

Website: [diversityfellowship.fd.org](https://diversityfellowship.fd.org)

Application opens November 24, 2021

Application deadline January 7, 2022

Fellows begin September 2022



## About the Diversity Fellowship Program

The Fellowship Program will seek to enhance the quality of representation provided under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) by creating a pipeline of diverse attorneys qualified to join Federal Defender Offices or CJA panels. Diversity among CJA counsel supports the cultural competency necessary to meet the needs of a diverse clientele and can lead to better case outcomes by fostering greater trust on the part of CJA clients.

The Fellowship Program will place 12 fellows in Federal Defender host offices across the country for two years, during which fellows will gain federal criminal defense training and experience to allow them to represent clients in non-capital CJA cases. Fellows will matriculate as a class. Each class will have a number of opportunities for joint training, mentorship, and other group activities. Fellows will receive a salary and benefits. The salary range for non-capital fellows will be the Judiciary Salary Plan (JSP) 11/1, 12/1, or 13/1, depending on experience, which is comparable to the federal General Schedule (GS) pay scale. The salary will also reflect locality adjustments.

## About Federal Defender Offices

Skilled collaboration, strategic litigation, compassionate representation, and unique approaches to the issues affecting our clients are among the values we aim to foster in federal defenders and CJA panel attorneys. Because no single person can do this work alone, you will work with experienced lawyers, mitigations specialists, paralegals, investigators, and administrative support staff.

About Defender Services:

<https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/defender-services>

Hear from assistant federal defenders about their work:

<https://youtu.be/TL5mP4RvU0A>

## Applicants

The Diversity Fellowship Program is open to graduating 3L students and recent law school graduates. A successful Fellow must be a talented advocate and legal writer, possess research skills, be team oriented, and be committed to public defense or related public interest law work.

**Diversifying the  
federal defense bar**

**Enhancing the quality of  
federal public defense  
representation**

**12 fellowship placements for  
2-year terms**

**Partnering with Federal  
Defender host offices across  
the U. S.**

**Training a new generation of  
federal defenders**

**JSP 11/1 – 13/1 salary range,  
commensurate with  
experience**

**For information, please  
contact:**

**Dawn Scott**

**Program Manager**

**Diversity Fellowship Program**

**Defender Services Office**

**Administrative Office of the**

**U. S. Courts**

**202-502-3349**

**[Dawn\\_Scott@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:Dawn_Scott@ao.uscourts.gov)**

**[diversityfellowship.fd.org](https://diversityfellowship.fd.org)**