

## **ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER I: LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT MARYLAND (FALL CLASS 2023)**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) seeks dedicated and client-centered litigators for its Fall Class 2023 to serve as Assistant Public Defenders in District Court locations throughout the State of Maryland. OPD provides superior representation to indigent defendants throughout the State of Maryland. We are committed to building a culturally diverse staff and strongly encourage people historically underrepresented in the practice of law to apply. OPD's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All* and we are committed to our core values of a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and remain united as a team in achieving our mission. Learn more about our [mission](#) and commitment to [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#).

### **OVERVIEW OF THE POSITION:**

An Assistant Public Defender combines their demonstrated commitment with their strong and zealous litigation skills to provide exceptional representation on behalf of their clients. Candidates with limited/moderate amount of criminal trial experience interested in joining OPD to do criminal trial work are invited to apply. Offers will be made for specific jurisdictions based on OPD's needs and the candidate's stated geographic limitations and preferences. Successful candidates for these positions will begin their employment with OPD in late August/early September 2023.

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Zealous representation of indigent defendants charged with misdemeanor criminal and traffic matters.
- Ability to competently and resourcefully prepare for and manage an active caseload; including, but not limited to the handling of bail review hearings, District Court trials, preliminary hearings, violation of probation hearings, and modification of sentence hearings.
- Effectively and compassionately communicate with clients, colleagues, and providers for optimal client outcome.
- Continuously seek professional development through trainings, continuing legal education and trial skills courses.

### **CORE COMPETENCIES AND REQUIREMENTS:**

- Demonstrated commitment to serving communities who have been pushed to the margins.
- Clear dedication to upending systemic racism, prejudice, and unfairness in the criminal justice system.
- Compassion.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively with people with different backgrounds and lived experiences.
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, diverse, team-oriented environment.
- Exceptional organizational, legal, and administrative skills necessary to handle a high caseload.
- Exposure to the proceedings and pace of the District Court (litigation experience or judicial clerkship helpful).
- All offers will be contingent on membership in good standing with the bar in advance of the scheduled start date<sup>1</sup> (unfortunately, this means most third year law students are not eligible)<sup>2</sup>. Non-Maryland attorneys must commit to becoming a member of the MD bar within 18 months of their start date.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

To be considered for this position please [click here](#) to fill out the application and please submit the following items in **one email** to [opd-jobs.law@maryland.gov](mailto:opd-jobs.law@maryland.gov): (1) current resume, (2) cover letter, (3) a list of three references, and (4) a law school transcript (if within 3 years of graduation). In the subject line of the email please indicate "**Fall Class 2023.**" Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2022**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Are you barred and available to start before February, 2023? Apply to the Spring Class 2023 and let us know your availability on the application form.

<sup>2</sup> Are you a 3L who will not be admitted to the bar by August, 2023 but looking for a position with OPD post-graduation? [Click here](#) to learn more about applying to OPD as a third year law student.