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JENNIFER SELLITTI
Public Defender

September 3, 2024

Statewide Announcement

JOB OPPORTUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: #2024-051

CLOSING DATE: September 27, 2024

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL DUE TO HIRING RESTRICTIONS

OPEN TO: Anyone who meets the education and experience requirements listed in the announced title.

POSITION: (1) Staff Attorney, Forensic Science Unit (FSU)
Assistant Deputy Public Defender (ADPD) 1, 2 OR 3

Hiring only one (1) Attorney for this role as either an ADPD 1, 2 or 3, depending on the level of experience.

LOCATION: The physical work location is flexible - most likely to be assigned to Newark, Trenton or Camden, depending on the candidate's residence.

Please also see the Civil Service Commission's job specifications for the full definition and requirements for each title below:

SALARY: Salary will depend on the level at which candidate is hired, which will depend on experience and qualifications.

P25-ADPD1 (\$74,534.83 - \$105,943.75)
info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/30775.htm

P30-ADPD2 (\$93,816.41 - \$133,882.16)
info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/30776.htm

P33-ADPD3 (\$107,853.96 - \$154,226.28)
info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/30777.htm

DESCRIPTION: This attorney will work collaboratively with attorneys litigating cases, with other attorneys in FSU, and across divisions at NJOPD. As part of the Forensic Science Unit, this attorney will develop expertise in multiple forensic disciplines. The specific areas of expertise will depend on need and background but may include pattern-matching disciplines (latent prints, toolmarks, etc.), digital forensics (cell-site location, ShotSpotter, surveillance, etc.), DNA, and other fields. This attorney will become an in-house expert on these topics and provide statewide support on these issues. The attorney will support other attorneys in handling their cases and will take on their own cases as appropriate. Responsibilities of the position include:

- Reviewing discovery including forensic reports and files;
- Supporting attorneys in developing litigation strategy;
- Second-chairing motion hearings or trials handled by staff or pool attorneys;
- First-chairing motion hearings and trials with complex forensic issues;
- Writing motions and briefs;
- Developing and providing training to other attorneys;
- Developing policy and statewide litigation strategy around forensic evidence in court;
- Help supervise the Forensic Science Workgroup;
- Identify, recruit, and liaise with forensic experts;
- Other duties as assigned.

SPECIAL NOTE: About Forensic Science Unit - The New Jersey Office of the Public Defender's Forensic Science Unit (FSU) is a specialty unit working agencywide. FSU consults with attorneys, litigates forensic issues, liaises with forensic experts, and trains on forensic issues. FSU applies cutting-edge research and legal theory to keep junk science out of courts and to hold existing forensic science to the high legal standards that New Jersey law requires.

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STAFF ATTORNEY, FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIT (ADPD 1, 2 OR 3)

NOTE: This position may be eligible to work remotely for up to two days in a calendar week.

EDUCATION: Graduation from an accredited law school with a Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree.

EXPERIENCE: First and foremost, candidates should have a passion for forensics. A successful candidate will have specific education, professional background, and/or working knowledge of forensic disciplines and/or a demonstrated ability to acquire knowledge of various forensic disciplines. NJOPD is increasingly committed to collaborative, holistic representation. Ideal candidates, therefore, will be able to effectively work across disciplines and divisions at NJOPD, including with attorneys litigating cases and with other attorneys in FSU.

At least two years of experience as an attorney working in criminal defense or related fields is preferred. Prior experience litigating forensic issues and cross-examining forensic experts is preferred. An education or professional background in forensics, science, relevant civil litigation, and/or statistics is a plus. The successful candidate will be able to gain a working knowledge of multiple forensic science disciplines—including ballistics, latent prints, and digital technologies—in a self-directed manner and be able to effectively communicate complex scientific ideas to attorneys, judges, and jurors, both in writing and orally. The candidate does not need to have specific experience in each forensic field but must be willing to develop working expertise in numerous forensic areas. Pre-existing expertise or working knowledge of at least one forensic discipline is a plus.

LICENSE: Appointees must be licensed as an Attorney-At-Law in the State of New Jersey. Any out-of-state applicant not already licensed in New Jersey must be willing to immediately begin the process of waiving into the New Jersey Bar. Any applicant not currently barred in any jurisdiction (i.e., law students) must be willing to sit for the next New Jersey bar examination.

RESIDENCY LAW: Pursuant to the New Jersey First Act", N.J.S.A. 52:14-7(L.2011,c.70), State employees are required to live in New Jersey unless exempted under the law. Those hired after September 1, 2011 have one year from the date of employment to establish, and maintain, principal residence in New Jersey, or be subject to removal from their position.

SAME APPLICANTS: If you are applying under the NJ SAME program, your supporting documents (Schedule A or B letter), must be submitted along with your resume by the closing date indicated above. For more information on the SAME Program visit the website at: <https://nj.gov/csc/same/overview/index.shtml>, email: SAME@csc.nj.gov, or call CSC at (609) 292-4144, option 3.

RESUME SUBMITTAL: Candidates possessing the requirements listed above, should forward 1) a current resume, 2) cover letter, and 3) a writing sample and/or transcript of an expert cross examination via email to OPD.Recruitment@opd.nj.gov (Note: Include the announcement number and title in the subject line) to:

William Wander, Director of Human Resources
Office of the Public Defender
Human Resources
P.O. Box 850
Trenton, NJ 08625-0850

JOB POSTING AUTHORIZED BY:


William Wander, Director of Human Resources