



CUYAHOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER  
Chief Public Defender – Cullen Sweeney

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## ATTORNEY POSTING

December 7, 2021

Job Title: Assistant Public Defender  
(Mental Health Docket)

Division: Felony

Reports to: Felony Division Supervisor

Salary: \$77,611  
(Commensurate with  
experience)

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Handle cases before the Mental Health Judges of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.
- Represent indigent defendants on the Mental Health dockets throughout the criminal process, including initial hearings, plea negotiations, trial, sentencing, and post-conviction supervision proceedings.
- Attend mental health staffings and work on treatment/release plans.
- Handle competency, sanity and conditional release hearings.
- Assist with the representation of felony defendants in non-Mental Health cases, as needed.
- Respond to requests for legal assistance from individuals with criminal issues who contact the Public Defender's Office.
- Participate in community events and meetings related to the work of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender.
- Must be available for court at all times court is open, and be available to meet and work outside the normal working hours if necessary.
- Must be able to perform all other duties assigned, delegated or required of the assistant public defenders as well as those prescribed by law

### EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- The applicant must be a licensed attorney in Ohio or have the ability to waive into the Ohio bar.
- The applicant must have a minimum three years of prior criminal legal experience.
- A desire to represent individuals with serious mental health issues and/or developmental disabilities.



- The ability to work as a team member with social workers, community providers, probation officers to coordinate treatment/release plans.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to effectively communicate with severely mental ill or developmentally delayed clients
- Experience with and/or knowledge of mental health and/or developmental disabilities.
- A capacity to work creatively and collaboratively on legal issues confronting our indigent clients.
- A demonstrated commitment to the representation of indigent individuals and an understanding of how systemic societal issues affect individuals and families.
- The ability to engage knowledgeable and compassionately with clients who are experiencing mental health concerns, substance abuse, and trauma.

**Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required**

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

All applications must be submitted by Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and must include the following:

- A cover letter addressing your interest and/or experience in indigent representation and the representation of individuals accused of criminal offenses
- A resume
- A writing sample that reflects your legal research and writing ability as well as your capacity for persuasive writing

These materials should be addressed to the Chief Public Defender Cullen Sweeney and sent to Mark Budzar by email or mail at:

Cuyahoga County Public Defender  
Courthouse Square  
c/o Mark Budzar  
310 W. Lakeside - Suite 400  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
[mbudzar@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:mbudzar@cuyahogacounty.us)

Reasonable accommodation is available to all employees and applicants. If you have a disability that needs to be accommodated, please contact the Department of Human Resources/ADA Coordinator at (216) 443-7190.

Equal Opportunity Employer – Smoke-free and Drug-free workplace.  
All job offers are made with the understanding that prospective employees pass a drug test and a criminal background investigation prior to being hired.

<http://publicdefender.cuyahogacounty.us/>