



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

ATTORNEY POSTING- Parent Representation Attorney

April 14, 2021

Job Title: Assistant Public Defender

Department: Public Defender

Reports to: Juvenile Division Supervisor

Salary: Minimum \$61,000.00
(Commensurate with experience)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Represent parents whose children are subject to involvement with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
- Advocate aggressively to prevent family separation and promote reunification
- Competently litigate all aspects of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, from the initial filing and separation of a family through final resolution
- Participate in community events and meetings related to the work of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Juvenile Division

EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS:

- The applicant must have prior experience representing parents in abuse, neglect, and dependency proceedings or other significant experience in the child welfare field;
- The applicant must have a demonstrated commitment to the representation of indigent individuals and an understanding of how systemic societal issues affect families;
- The applicant must have the ability to engage knowledgeably and compassionately with clients who are experiencing mental health concerns, substance abuse, and trauma;
- The applicant must have strong written and oral advocacy skills;
- The applicant must have the ability to work creatively and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary team with social workers and other professionals;
- The applicant 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;
- The applicant must be able to perform all other duties assigned, delegated, or required of the assistant public defenders as well as those prescribed by law;

MINIMUM EDUCATION:

Juris Doctor; licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of Ohio or the ability to become licensed within a short time-frame after hiring

Candidates with dual degrees in social work and law (MSW/JD or MSSA/JD) are strongly preferred.





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APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All applications must be submitted by **April 30, 2021** and must include the following:

- A cover letter addressing your interest and experience with parent representation and/or child welfare law
- 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

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/>

