



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

ATTORNEY POSTING

December 7, 2021

Job Title: Assistant Public Defender
(Vertical Defender)

Division: Felony and
Juvenile

Reports to: Felony and Juvenile Division Supervisors

Salary: Commensurate with
experience, starting at
\$80,746

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Handle bindover cases originating in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (arraignment to bindover) and then all pre-trial and trial proceedings in Common Pleas
- Represent indigent juveniles charged with felony crimes in pre-trial, trial, and sentencing proceedings.
- Respond to requests for legal assistance from individuals or organizations who contact the Public Defender's Office.
- Participate in community events and meetings related to the work of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender.
- Work with a collaborative team including social workers, investigators and trial paralegals to provide wrap around holistic defense and develop mitigation for juvenile delinquents in all stages of the bindover to Common Pleas

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 jury trial experience in the General Division of Common Pleas Court and have a minimum of 7 years of prior criminal legal experience as an attorney.
- The applicant should have extensive knowledge of both Common Pleas Court and Juvenile Court, and prior experience handling juvenile bindovers is preferred.
- The applicant MUST be present in all court proceedings in Juvenile and Common Pleas, and work collaboratively with the assigned Juvenile Court attorney. The applicant must be willing to have an office presence in both the juvenile and felony divisions.
- The applicant should have significant legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills and experience.
- The applicant must demonstrate a capacity to work creatively and collaboratively on legal issues confronting our indigent clients.



- The applicant should demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with clients who are children and adolescents.
- 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 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.

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

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/>