



CUYAHOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Chief Public Defender – Cullen Sweeney#

JOB POSTING

Posting date: September 28, 2021

Job Title: Social Worker (LSW)

Department: Felony &
Misdemeanor Division

Reports to: Social Work Supervisor

Salary: \$44,838.04
(Commensurate with licensure and experience)

Location:

Public Defender Office
310 W. Lakeside Avenue, Suite 200
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

OVERVIEW:

Social workers at the Public Defender's Office are part of an interdisciplinary team of advocates who represent indigent adults facing misdemeanor and felony charges, being supervised on probation through a number of specialized court programs, and/or are seeking early release or a reduction in their sentence. The social worker helps our client meet critical needs, provides the client with appropriate referrals, works to develop mitigation and/or release plans, and generally supports the representation.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintain regular communication with the client
- Collaborate with clients, lawyers, and outside agencies
- Obtain necessary records to aid in the successful representation of the client
- Assess and evaluate client needs and provide appropriate referrals
- Collect and present mitigation for sentencing hearings in serious cases including death penalty cases
- Assemble release plans for sentencing hearings in less serious cases or judicial release hearings to provide for successful completion of supervision and reintegration of our client into the community
- Attend and advocate on behalf of the client at specialized docket staffings including Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, Drug Court, and Domestic Violence Court
- Assist attorneys in communication with clients experiencing unique challenges such as developmental delays, complex trauma, severe mental health issues
- Attend court hearings and providing testimony as needed.
- Facilitate and participate in trainings within and outside the Office
- Participate in community events and meetings related to the work of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender or any other assignments given by the Public Defender's Office.



- Other duties as assigned related to the representation of Public Defender Clients

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with LSW Licensure (required)
- Master's Degree in Social Work (preferred)
- Ability to work well independently and collaboratively with lawyers, non-lawyers, and court and agency staff
- Commitment to social justice and defending the rights of indigent individuals charged and convicted of crimes
- Demonstrated understanding of the issues of race and poverty as they relate to the criminal justice system
- Experience working in and with racially and socioeconomically marginalized communities
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of Cuyahoga County community based resources

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required for employment.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Applications must be submitted by **Friday, October 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** and include the following:

- A cover letter and resume
- Three references
- Verification of Ohio licensure

These materials should be addressed and delivered by mail, or email to:

Chief Public Defender Cullen Sweeney
Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office
c/o Administrator Mark Budzar
310 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

If sending via email, please send your application packet to: 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/>