

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER IV

Definition:

Under direction, to perform difficult, complex, and significantly responsible legal work in the Office of the Public Defender; and to do related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This is the senior working level within the flexible classification of Deputy Public Defender. Incumbents are responsible for handling a high volume caseload, principally comprised of complex and difficult cases, and may be asked to train and oversee the work of less tenured staff. Supervisory responsibilities may be assigned for specified periods of time. This classification is distinguished from Deputy Public Defender III by the degree of complexity and sensitivity of the projects assigned, discretion exercised and supervision received. Promotion in this flexible classification is considered on a merit basis subject to recommendation by the department head, and approval by the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Essential Functions:

- Represents clients in connection with adult criminal; juvenile delinquency, and/or dependency matters; conservatorship, mental health, and appellate matters.
- Interviews clients; prepares cases for pre-trial hearings and trial by initiating and directing appropriate investigations, working to engage necessary experts, and researching legal issues.
- Prepares and litigates appropriate pre-trial motions.
- Litigates contested hearings, including serious, difficult, and complex felony jury trials.
- Performs interlocutory appellate and limited post-conviction work, including motions to modify probation; prepares and litigates writs, habeas petitions, and represents clients at revocation hearings.
- Serves as lead defense counsel in homicide cases; or an equivalent level of senior attorney non-felony trial work.
- Represents Public Defender clients in Juvenile dependency, and delinquency matters; conservatorship, mentally disordered offender (MDO), and sexually violent predator (SVP) client matters.
- Travels to, and personally meets with, in-custody adult clients; detained and placed dependent and wardship minors; and/or conserved individuals at county jail, state prisons, and other correctional, detention, placement, and other off-site locations.
- May be assigned unit supervision duties for specified periods of time.
- Performs other job-related duties as required.

Employment Standards:

Licensure by the California State Bar, and three (3) years of experience as a practicing attorney in criminal and/or civil law.

Knowledge of: the thorough and complete legal principles and practices including civil, criminal, constitutional and administrative law and procedure; governmental and district organization; trial procedure and rules of evidence; legal research techniques.

Ability to: effectively and efficiently handle a high-volume workload; present statements of law, fact, and argument clearly, logically, and persuasively; direct the preparation of proper legal instruments; travel to locations outside of the regular office to perform necessary legal services.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.

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