

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER II

Definition:

Under direction, to perform responsible legal work of average difficulty, complexity, and responsibility in the Office of the Public Defender; and to do related work as required.

Essential Functions:

- Represents clients in connection with adult criminal; juvenile delinquency, and/or dependency matters; and 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.
- Performs limited post-conviction work, including motions to modify probation; preparing and litigating writs; and representing clients at revocation hearings.
- Represents clients at preliminary hearings, misdemeanor, and/or low level felony jury trials.
- Represents Public Defender clients in Juvenile dependency, and delinquency matters; conservatorship, mentally disordered offender (MDO), and sexually violent predator (SVP) client matters.
- Applies knowledge of substantive and procedural criminal law, and law applicable to various responsibilities involving the effective representation of Public Defender clients.
- 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.
- Performs other job-related duties as required.

Employment Standards:

Applicants must be licensed by State Bar of California and have one (1) year of experience in the practice of law.

Knowledge of: the principles of civil and criminal law and their application; trial procedures and the rules of evidence; legal research methods.

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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