

## **DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER I**

### **Definition:**

Under supervision, to perform the less difficult entry-level legal work 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; conservatorship, mental health, and appellate matters.
- Interviews clients, prepares cases for pre-trial hearings and trial.
- Interviews clients; prepares cases for pre-trial hearings and trial by initiating appropriate investigations, working to engage necessary experts, and researching legal issues.
- Prepares and litigates appropriate pre-trial motions.
- Litigates contested hearings, including misdemeanor jury trials.
- Performs limited post-conviction work, including motions to modify probation, and represents clients at revocation hearings.
- 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:**

Applicant must be licensed by the California State Bar.

**Knowledge of:** the principles of law and their application, including criminal law; trial procedure 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.