

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
**Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa**

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**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 1602**  
**RESEARCH AND WRITING SPECIALIST**  
**TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT**

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The Federal Public Defender is accepting applications for the position of Research and Writing Specialist. The Federal Public Defender operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. 3006A, to provide defense services in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The Research and Writing Specialist provides advanced research and writing services to Assistant Federal Defender (AFD) staff on trial and appellate cases. The individual in this position must be an attorney. The Research and Writing Specialist writes briefs, motions, petitions for certiorari, and legal memoranda for review by the Federal Defender and AFDs. General duties include examining, analyzing and researching records and issues; performing legal research and preparing legal documents; assistant AFD staff with all aspects of case preparation, training and continuing legal education and supervision of other research staff as appropriate. This position will be primarily responsible for assisting with the review of claims under *Johnson v. United States*, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015), and other duties as assigned.

**REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants must have 1) a law school degree with admission and good standing to a federal and state bar; 2) a minimum of three years' general and two years' specialized experience; 3) knowledge of federal criminal law and procedures; 4) outstanding legal research and writing skills; 5) strong typing and automation skills and 6) ability to work independently from a remote work site, if required.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS:** The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as a condition of employment. Employment will be considered provisional until a satisfactory background check is confirmed.

**SALARY:** This is a full-time position with federal salary and benefits. Salary commensurate with experience, payable by electronic funds transfer (direct deposit) of net pay.

**This is a temporary position that will expire one year and one day after commencement of employment.** There are no express or implied promises of future employment with this office.

**Full-time telework will be considered.**

**HOW TO APPLY:** Electronically submit resume, writing sample and cover letter by January 11, 2016 to James Whalen at [Jim.Whalen@fd.org](mailto:Jim.Whalen@fd.org). The email subject line **must read:** Position Announcement 1602. Preference will be given to applications received by January 11, 2016, however position open until filled. Only applicants considered for an interview will be contacted. No telephone calls please.

This position is subject to fiscal year 2016 funding. The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer.