

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER: PARENTAL DEFENSE DIVISION (BALTIMORE CITY)

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD), Parental Defense Division (PDD) is seeking a litigator with a skill set that can be effectively applied to defend parents and legal guardians in CINA/TPR proceedings. This Division represents parents and/or legal guardians whose children have been removed or are at risk of being removed from their care and custody by the State. Attorneys represent clients in adversarial proceedings from the initial Emergency Shelter Care Hearing to the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) trial. The PDD fully embraces and is committed to the Office of the Public Defender's core values that include a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and united as a team in achieving the Agency's mission of "*Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All.*"

OVERVIEW

An Assistant Public Defender in the Parental Defense Division is a critical thinker with a demonstrated ability to apply legal analysis in an area of the law that may be unsettled. S/he must be willing to challenge the system with a healthy sense of outrage and be persistent in the face of ambiguity or outright resistance to her/his position. The Assistant Public Defender must be able to handle crisis, manage a variety of personalities, and multitask in a fast-paced, high pressure environment. This position will be located in Baltimore City but s/he may be required handle cases in the metropolitan area.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Zealously and compassionately represent clients at every stage of the proceeding.
- Engage in motions practice.
- Engage in legal research and writing.
- Obtain, organize, and review voluminous records, documents, and court orders.
- Develop and maintain client relationships over the extended life of the case.
- Be non-judgmental and empathetic of clients who present with challenges and/or barriers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Prior experience in litigation including, CINA/TPR, Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, or Family Law (*experience may include internships, law school clinical programs, or any other relevant experience*)
- Ability to work independently and effectively manage a high volume caseload with short deadlines
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, team oriented environment
- Strong communication and client advocacy skills
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or Bar of another State*

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position please submit a: (1) current resume, (2) cover letter addressing the above qualifications, (3) list of references, (4) completed Application Essay (available on our website under "Careers"), and (5) law school transcript. All items must be submitted electronically in **one email** to attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us. In the subject line of the email please indicate "APD, Parental Defense Division Baltimore City." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2018

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Assistant Public Defenders are full-time employees who serve at the pleasure of the Public Defender. Criminal Procedure Art., Section 16-203(d). Assistant Public Defenders cannot engage in the private of law while in this position.

*Individuals who are members of the Bar of another State must be admitted in the Maryland Bar within 18 months of start date.