

EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY, PARENTAL DEFENDERS DIVISION: CAROLINE, CECIL, KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S, AND TALBOT COUNTIES

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) seeks an experienced zealous and dedicated litigator to serve as an Assistant Public Defender in the Parental Defenders Division. The Parent Defenders Division represents parents whose children are taken or at risk of being removed by the local Department of Social Services. The cases begin with hearings on removal of a child, and may involve discovery, mediation, trials, permanency hearings, and termination of parental rights proceedings. OPD's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All*. Employees are committed to the core values of a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and are united as a team in achieving the Agency's mission.

OVERVIEW OF THE POSITION

An Assistant Public Defender in the Parent Defenders Division combines his/her demonstrated dedication to the representation of indigent clients with his/her strong leadership and litigation skills to ensure the highest standard of representation in a team-oriented environment focused on a client-centered approach to representation. The attorney in this position is expected to work independently in managing an active caseload. This representation is from the Emergency Shelter Care Hearing through any Termination of Parental Rights proceedings. The office for the attorney selected for this position will be located in either Talbot or Cecil Counties though the attorney's caseload will potentially involve matters in Caroline, Cecil, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Zealous representation of parents at every stage of the case.
- Ability to competently, independently, and resourcefully manage an active caseload.
- Actively communicate with clients, family members, and team members, and resources for optimal client outcomes.
- Travel is required to several jurisdictions on the Eastern Shore for court hearings, mediations, drug court and FIM meetings.
- Continuously seek professional development through trainings, continuing legal education and trial skills courses.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated commitment to zealous and effective representation.
- Prior experience in Parent Defense, Criminal, Juvenile or Family Law (3 years required; substantial Parental Defense experience strongly preferred).
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment.
- Ability to work independently, and effectively manage an active caseload.
- Strong communication and client advocacy skills.
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or Bar of another State.¹

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, and (4) completed Applicant Essay (available on our website under "Careers").

All materials must be submitted electronically in **one email** to attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us. In the subject line of the email please indicate "APD, Parental Defenders." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2017

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 practice of law while in this position.

¹ Individuals who are members of the Bar of another State must be admitted to the Maryland Bar within 18 months of start date.