

## **CHIEF ATTORNEY: FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender seeks a zealous, client-centered attorney to serve as the Chief Attorney, Forensic Science Division. The Litigation Support Group of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) is a state-wide specialized division that provides support services and training to OPD and panel attorneys in the areas of forensic sciences, mental health, social work, investigations and related ancillary services that are necessary for an effective defense. The primary objective of the Forensic Science arm of the Litigation Support Group is to support excellent, client-centered representation for OPD clients confronted with forensic evidence and expert testimony. 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 OPD's mission.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE POSITION**

The Chief Attorney of the Forensic Science Division primarily provides leadership and direction to the Forensic Science Division related to the subject matter areas of forensic science litigation and support of OPD attorneys and panel attorneys. The Chief Attorney is responsible for oversight and review of challenges to, or the use of, forensic science evidence and expert testimony, the development of legal strategies to challenge admissibility or weight, and the identification and retention of appropriate experts. Some of the more common areas of forensic science that the Litigation Support Group handles include: DNA, digital evidence (cell phone location data, forensic extractions of digital media storage devices, surveillance video/audio), medical (cause and manner of death/child abuse), toxicology (human specimen/CDS testing), pattern impression (latent fingerprint, firearm/toolmark, handwriting), accident reconstruction, forensic interviews of children, and crime scene reconstruction. The Chief Attorney provides leadership, management, and specialized support to attorneys related to the legal framework for admissibility of expert opinion and scientific testing, (including disclosure and discovery issues), and procedural and substantive issues related to development of theories of defense. The position will be located at 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

### **PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Lead and manage the Forensic Science Division of OPD, which includes attorneys and core staff.
- Oversee and provide support to OPD and panel attorneys related to all aspects of forensic evidence and expert testimony, including: review of case-related discovery, forensic consults, identification and consultation with independent experts, development of legal strategies and defenses, and related litigation.
- Manage process for consults with attorneys in assigned districts.
- Manage process for identifying, vetting, and retaining expert witnesses.
- Identify, manage and litigate complex challenges to forensic science evidence.
- Keep up to date on new and emerging forensic technologies and inform/advise the agency about their use.
- Assist in developing and conducting training programs.
- Directly participate in special impact litigation, as needed.
- Participate in the Senior Management Team.

### **TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Demonstrated commitment to zealous, client-centered representation of clients.
- Specialized knowledge, training, or experience, in the field of forensic science and expert testimony, best practice and/or policy (strongly preferred).
- Criminal defense litigation experience (5 years required) with extensive experience utilizing forensic science experts.
  - Ability to communicate effectively with OPD clients, attorneys, consulting experts and others to ensure coordination of efforts to achieve effective forensic science litigation support.
- Managerial or supervisory experience (strongly preferred).
- Active membership in good standing in the Maryland Bar or the Bar of another State.\*

### **HOW TO APPLY**

If you wish to be considered for this position please submit a: (1) curriculum vitae, (2) cover letter, (3) list of references, (4) completed Applicant Essay (available on our website under "Careers"), and (5) writing sample. Please email all items in **one email** to attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us. In the subject line of the email please indicate "Chief Attorney: Forensic Science Division." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### **CLOSING DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2017**

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

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\* Individuals who are or who will become members of the Bar of another State must be admitted to the Maryland Bar within 18 months of their start date with OPD.