ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER: FORENSIC SCIENCE LITIGATION SUPPORT ATTORNEY

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender seeks a zealous, client-centered attorney to serve as a Forensic Science Litigation Support Attorney. 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
An Assistant Public Defender serving as a Forensic Science Litigation Attorney primarily assists OPD attorneys and panel attorneys with the review of forensic science evidence and expert testimony, the development of legal strategies to challenge admissibility or weight, and the identification 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 Forensic Science Litigation Support Attorney provides 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 projected start date for this position is in the early Fall of 2017. The position will be located at 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
•Support 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 consults with attorneys in assigned districts.
•Litigate complex challenges to forensic science evidence.
•Assist in developing and conducting training programs.
•Directly participate in special impact litigation, as needed.

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.
•Specialized knowledge, training, or experience in forensic science best practices and/or policy (strongly preferred).
•Criminal defense litigation experience (5 years preferred) 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.
•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) current resume, (2) cover letter addressing the above qualifications, (3) list of references, (4) completed Applicant Essay (available on our website under "Careers"), (5) law school transcript (unofficial or official), and (6) writing sample. Please email all items in **one email** to attorneyjobs@opd.state.md.us. In the subject line of the email please indicate "APD: Forensic Science." Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: JULY 1, 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.

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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.