



Social Work Intern Vanessa, creates a plan of action with Chief Assistant Federal Defender Price

Qualifications

Social Worker interns must:

- Have a background in social services or a related field, or a background in criminal justice with an interest in social services
- Be willing to work with clients from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, with varying needs and challenges

How to Apply

Qualified applicants should send a cover letter explaining their interest in social work and public defense, along with a résumé and 1-2 page writing sample, to:

**Office of the Federal Defender
Eastern District of California
Attn: Crystal Sheffield
801 I Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Or, by e-mail to Crystal_Sheffield@fd.org.

Who We Are

Our Mission

Members of the Federal Defender's Office share a commitment to excellence and a passion for justice in representing indictment people accused of a myriad of federal criminal offenses. We provide legal representation and/or advice to individuals financially unable to employ counsel in federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. We are advocates for the poor – we want our legal system to be fair to all. Our mission is to exceed our clients' expectations every day by providing the highest caliber of legal counsel and advice.

Contact Us

Phone: 916.498.5700

Email: Crystal_Sheffield@fd.org

Web: www.cae-fpd.org



Heather Williams

Federal Defender

Jerome Price

Chief Assistant Federal
Defender

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Office of the Federal Defender



Social Work Internship Program

Eastern District of
California



Tower Bridge, Sacramento, CA

What is the Office of the Federal Defender?

The Office of the Federal Defender represents defendants charged in federal court with felonies and misdemeanors, before and after arrest, trial, sentencing, and on appeal. We also represent inmates in appellate and both capital and non-capital habeas corpus proceedings.



Social Worker Crystal Sheffield and Paralegal Leigh Opferman at the First Annual Pathways to Progress Resource Fair

Social Work Internship Program

The Federal Defender's Office (FDO) employs social workers in both the Sacramento and Fresno offices to counsel and aid clients through various challenges that exist in conjunction with their criminal case. The FDO's Social Work Program is an important component of a holistic approach to meeting client needs. We believe that by helping clients address their social support needs, we enable the best possible resolution to their criminal case AND reduce recidivism risks.

"I am passionate and grateful for the work I do through this internship. My favorite part is helping clients see their value and strengths, regardless of their past."

We cooperate with the Federal Court, the Federal PreTrial Services Office, and the Federal Probation Office to address client needs. FDO social workers assist clients with housing, healthcare, difficult family situations, mental health counseling and treatment, substance use addiction treatment, employment and vocational training, mentoring, immigration concerns, and other barriers that our clients face.



Social Work Intern Vanessa, meets with Assistant Federal Defender Crager to discuss client needs

Your Role

The Federal Defender's Office seeks students who have a desire to work alongside our social work team. Student interns will advocate for and work with FDO clients to meet their particular needs.

In addition to direct client work, interns will work with the social work team to develop ongoing programs, such as:

- Reentry Collaborative
- Resource and Employment Fairs
- Mentoring Programs
- Housing Partnerships
- Employment Partnerships
- Community Agency/Provider Outreach

Social work interns develop unique hands-on experience while contributing to the lives of our clients in a positive way.

