

# Office of the Federal Defender Eastern District of California

## LAW CLERKSHIP INFORMATION

**Heather E. Williams**  
**Federal Defender**

**Jerome Price**  
**Chief Assistant Federal Defender**



**801 I Street**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**916.498.5700**

**2300 Tulare Street**  
**Suite 330**  
**Fresno, CA 93721**  
**559.487.5561**

Website: <http://www.cae-fpd.org>



## HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should send a cover letter explaining their interest in public defense, along with a resume and writing sample, to:

**Rachelle Barbour**  
**Office of the Federal Defender**  
**Eastern District of California**  
**801 I Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**916.498.5700**  
**[Rachelle\\_Barbour@fd.org](mailto:Rachelle_Barbour@fd.org)**





## MISDEMEANOR UNIT CLERKS

Misdemeanor Unit Clerks will be primarily responsible for representing (under supervision) Federal Defender clients charged with federal misdemeanor offenses. Students will meet with clients, prepare and argue motions, direct investigations, conduct trials, and advocate at sentencing.

Misdemeanor Unit Clerks must have successfully completed classes in evidence and civil and

## RESEARCH AND WRITING CLERKS

Research and writing clerks will assist felony, appellate, and habeas corpus attorneys with research, writing, and motions. They will also have the opportunity to attend, observe, and possibly participate in court hearings.

## CAPITAL HABEAS UNIT (CHU) CLERKS (Sacramento Office Only)

Students will assist attorneys in research, organization, and investigation of habeas claims for clients currently facing a death penalty sentence.

## OUR MISSION

We are defenders not just of individual clients but of freedom and constitutional rights. We represent a diverse group of clients charged with a variety of offenses, all of whom have one thing in common: the government is attempting to deprive them of their liberty. Some of the clients we represent are veterans who have served our country.

*(Vietnam, 1966)*

*(Sacramento, 2016)*



We represent defendants charged in federal court with felonies and misdemeanors, before and after arrest, during trial, sentencing, and on appeal. We also represent inmates in appellate and both capital and non-capital habeas corpus proceedings.

We take great pride in helping shape the next generation of public defenders. We want to give them the necessary experience and skills to provide quality representation for clients all over the United States.



# MISDEMEANOR BOOTCAMP

During the first week in June each year all summer clerks attend a week-long bootcamp where they will receive the training necessary for success throughout the summer. The bootcamp includes simulations to help law clerks become comfortable with tasks they will encounter. These training sessions are taught by multiple attorneys from the office and sometimes include other members of the court family.



## EXAMPLE OF A DAY IN BOOTCAMP

|                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  | Client Interview<br>Simulation                  |
| 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Federal Criminal<br>Discovery and<br>Disclosure |
| 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  | Yoga/Lunch                                      |
| 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.   | Pretrial Motions                                |
| 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.   | Motion Argument<br>Simulation                   |



*Law Clerks are invited to participate in other office activities including: Social mixers, Federal Defender softball games, farmers markets, yoga, attorney meetings, and brown bag lunches throughout the summer where additional training and insight into the life of a public defender is provided.*



## Financing Work Study

All Law Clerk positions are unpaid. Students interested in receiving pay through the work-study program must contact their law school to determine if they qualify for a work-study position. The office has several work-study positions available. The office also supports all grant applications.

## WHERE CLERKS GO

### DURING THE SUMMER

Students who clerk for our office get to tour and visit various sites of alleged offenses as well as government agencies. The following are examples of places summer clerks may visit:

- San Quentin
- Folsom State Prison
- Sacramento Main Jail
- El Dorado National Forest
- Yosemite National Park

### AFTER THE SUMMER



At the Office of the Federal Defender we feel we have a duty to train the next generation of passionate public defenders.

Law clerks who have participated in our program have gone on to work in public defender's offices throughout the nation, including:

- Bronx Public Defender
- Colorado State Public Defender
- San Diego Federal Defender
- New Jersey State Public Defender
- Numerous county offices across California including Solano, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Yolo, San Joaquin, Placer, Stanislaus, Orange and Los Angeles.



## Our District

We serve 34 counties that are located from Kern County in the south to Siskiyou County in the north. The district lies between the Eastern slope of the California Coastal range and the California/Nevada border. Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Lassen National Parks are located within our district. The Eastern District of California was created in 1966.

We have two offices: Sacramento and Fresno.