

Social Work Program | Internship Opportunity

Federal Defender's Office Eastern District of California

Website: cae-fpd.org



THE FDO's MISSION & OBJECTIVE

Members of the Federal Defender's Office share a commitment to excellence and a passion for justice in representing indigent people charged or involved with criminal cases in United States District Court. We provide quality legal representation to individuals financially unable to employ counsel in a myriad of federal criminal cases and related matters in the federal courts. The wide range of cases we handle include felonies, misdemeanors, appeals, non-capital habeas matters, and capital habeas matters. We advocate for our clients – we want our legal system to be fair to all.

In accordance with holistic defense and client-centered practice, we have employed social workers in both our Sacramento and Fresno offices. Social Workers assist clients to address the collateral issues in conjunction with their criminal case. Our clients live throughout the Central Valley, in cities, towns, and rural areas. Our clients speak dozens of languages and their social support needs are as unique as their backgrounds. Each case is a new opportunity for our social workers to learn about services available and to connect the client to appropriate community services. By helping clients with their support needs, we hope to enable the best possible resolution of their criminal case. Often, these issues have driven our clients into the criminal legal system in the first place. We also cooperate with the Court, Pretrial Services Office, and Probation Office in assisting our clients fill gaps in services that might create recidivism risk.

SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Federal Defender's Office is seeking social work students who have a desire to work alongside our defense team, assisting our clients in producing positive outcomes. This is accomplished in partnership with FDO staff, Federal Probation, Federal Pretrial Services, and outside agencies and organizations.

- Student interns will work closely with the Social Work team and attorneys of the Federal Defender's Office by facilitating client intakes, release planning, connecting with community agencies, providing follow-up support to clients and family members, and assisting clients with various needs.
- Student interns will advocate for clients by collaborating with community agencies, as well as Probation and Pretrial Services (when necessary) to work towards meeting the individual's needs of a client.
- Student interns must be willing to meet with clients in various settings, such as the county jails, home settings, the Federal courthouse, and the FDO office.
- Student interns must also be willing to work with clients from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, with varying needs and challenges.
- Student interns will work closely with the FDO Social Work team and attorneys for release planning and follow-up support for clients.
- Student interns will also have opportunities to work with the Social Work Team in developing and supporting special projects, such as resource fairs, collaborative groups, and more.

Students who have a background in social services or a similar field, or a background in criminal justice with an interest in social services are preferred. We are seeking students who will be able to make a **6-12 month (minimum) commitment**, two days each week (**12-16 hours total**).

Other requirements are as follows:

- **Candidate must have the ability to maintain personal and professional boundaries.**
- **Candidate must possess exceptional communication skills (written and oral), to meet the professional requirements and demands of the internship.**
- **The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, a self-starter, and able to work well, both independently and collaboratively, with fellow interns, FDO office staff, Federal court personnel, and community service providers.**

Please email the following to **the FDO Social Work Team**, at cae_sw_requests@fd.org or deanna_lynn-steele@fd.org:

- ✓ Cover Letter or Letter of Interest
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ 1-2 Page Writing Sample (any topic of interest)