



Washington State Office of Public Defense

Exempt Recruitment

PARENTS REPRESENTATION MANAGING ATTORNEY \$100,000 to \$107,000 annually

Washington State Office of Public Defense
Olympia, Washington

September 22, 2020- Rolling Interviews Beginning Immediately, Open Until Filled

About OPD

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) is an independent judicial branch agency mandated to implement the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services funded by the state.

Located in Olympia, OPD employs 21 professionals who administer client-service contracts and technical assistance in several statewide programs, including parents' representation, sex offender civil commitment, indigent appeals, and local public defense improvement under RCW 10.101. OPD directly contracts with more than 200 attorneys and independent social service specialists statewide, and engages in ongoing training and quality oversight of the contractors.

OPD is dedicated to excellence in public law and indigent defense, and we seek talented candidates who share this commitment to client-centered service. We value employees who bring diverse backgrounds in education, employment, community activities, and life experiences to enhance our office.

The Position

OPD seeks a full-time Managing Attorney to work as part of a team of five managing attorneys and two social service managers to implement quality oversight and continual improvement of the Parents Representation Program. The Parents Representation Program administers contract attorney representation and independent social work support services for indigent parents involved in child dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Washington juvenile courts. The Program utilizes standards and protocols that historically have resulted in significant improvements in child permanency and family reunification.

Parent Representation Program Managing Attorneys provide specialized training for contract attorneys, and monitor and evaluate contracts in accordance with constitutional, statutory, and court administrative requirements. Each Managing Attorney works with OPD support staff, contracted attorneys, contracted independent social workers, local courts, child welfare agencies, and others as necessary to ensure parent clients receive quality assistance of counsel and related services.

The Managing Attorney worksite is at the OPD office in Olympia, with periodic travel required in Washington State, including occasional overnight travel. Out-of-state travel occurs infrequently.

Currently, the office is observing Covid-19 restrictions with some employees working at home.

Minimum Qualifications

- Member in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association.
- Experience as an attorney practicing in dependency and termination cases.
- Must be able to develop and sustain respectful professional relationships with a diverse community of contract attorneys, social workers, local courts, the Attorney General's Office, DCYF, CASA, legislators, and others.
- Experience or interest in how race, gender national origin, disability, and class intersect to create disparities for individuals and families experiencing state intervention in their lives
- Ability to prioritize tasks, and to function independently as well as part of a team in a collaborative environment.
- Proficient computer skills and the ability to become proficient in the use of specialized case management tools.
- Excellent writing and proofreading skills.

Desired Qualifications

- Experience promoting systemic change in important aspects of the child welfare system or initiating juvenile court procedural improvements.
- Experience representing parents and supervising attorneys who represent parents in child welfare cases.
- Experience working with families living in poverty and/or from diverse cultures.
- Experience implementing anti-racist legal strategies
- Experience advocating about barriers faced by Black, Brown and Indigenous populations
- Experience developing and presenting attorney training programs.
- Trained in trauma-informed practices.

General Responsibilities

- Exercise mature judgment in potentially sensitive, high-stress situations.
- Participate in and foster a collaborative working environment at OPD.
- Diligently follow attorney and state employee ethics requirements.
- Conduct all activities with the highest degree of professionalism in furtherance of OPD's mission to implement the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel.

Compensation

\$100,000 to 107,000 annually, DOQ.

Washington State employees receive a comprehensive benefit package that includes retirement, options for deferred compensation, and a full array of health, dental and life insurance coverage as well as pre-tax flexible spending accounts.

Application Process

Interested candidates should *submit the following by email* to:

Program Assistant Kendra Freas at kendra.freas@opd.wa.gov :

- Letter of interest.
- Current résumé and a list of at least three professional references.
- [Application for State Jobs](#) (Word file) (Rev. 6/4/19)

The Washington State Office of Public Defense vigorously pursues diversity in the work force. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons over 40 years of age, persons of disability, and disabled and Vietnam era veterans are encouraged to apply.