

**CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
For
STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

The Public Defender Commission of New Mexico is seeking an innovative, dynamic and experienced leader for the position of Chief Public Defender. The Public Defender Department was established as an independent state agency by constitutional amendment in 2012 making it independent of the Governor. The Commission provides oversight of the Public Defender Department and will appoint the Chief. The Commission seeks a leader who will work with the Commission to improve the provision of legal services for indigent clients accused of crimes in New Mexico state courts while continuing the positive aspects of the statewide system.

The Public Defender Department provides legal representation to indigent persons pursuant to the Public Defender Act. The Department has 394 full-time employees, including 210 attorneys and 184 support staff. The headquarters of the Department is located in Santa Fe, the state capital of New Mexico, and the Department has regional offices in 11 cities in New Mexico. In addition to regional offices, the Department has four specialized units: capital crimes, mental health, habeas corpus, and appeals. The Department also contracts with private counsel to provide legal representation in conflict of interest cases and in areas of New Mexico that do not have a regional office. District Public Defenders and Managing Attorneys manage the regional offices and the specialized units, and they report to the Chief Public Defender.

The Chief Public Defender is responsible to the Public Defender Commission for the operation of the Department. It is the Chief's duty to (1) administer and carry out the provisions of the Public Defender Act, (2) exercise authority over and provide general supervision of employees of the Department, and (3) represent and advocate for the Department and its clients. The Chief interacts with members of the legislature, the legal profession, and the judiciary. The salary range for this "exempt" position is Pay Range # 46 on the Governor's Exempt Salary Schedule, but the actual salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The successful candidate must be willing to accept an offer no later than October 15, 2013, and begin work no later than January 1, 2014.

MINIMUM (STATUTORY) QUALIFICATIONS:

- An attorney licensed to practice law in New Mexico or who will be so licensed within one year of appointment;
- An attorney whose practice of law has been active for at least five years immediately preceding the date of appointment;
- An attorney whose practice of law has included a minimum of five year's experience in defense of persons accused of crime;
- An attorney who has clearly demonstrated management or executive experience.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Passion and enthusiasm for representation of adults and juveniles in the criminal justice system.
- Capacity to inspire and lead attorneys and staff to work together in representation of indigent clients.
- Record of proven fiscal and managerial skills in successfully managing budgets and personnel.
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and vision.
- Knowledge and experience with the legislative process, including the budget process.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively with the judiciary, the bar, legislators and government officials..
- Demonstrated understanding of the indigent community, including sensitivity to its needs and ability to work with it.
- Experience in successfully developing innovative and creative solutions to problems.
- Experience and sensitivity to criminal justice issues related to the mentally ill.
- Knowledge of and experience and sensitivity to justice issues related to juvenile justice.
- Experience and sensitivity to justice issues related to substance abuse.

A complete application consists of (1) a letter that expresses interest in and qualifications for the position, (2) a curriculum vitae, and (3) the names, addresses and contact information of five professional references. The New Mexico Public Defender Commission actively encourages applications from members of under-represented groups. For information regarding the confidentiality of inquiries and applications call or write to the address listed below.

Applications should be submitted by email attachment on or before September 10, 2013 to:

The Public Defender Commission of New Mexico
c/o Theresa R. Montoya
UNM School of Law MSC11-6070
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
Phone: 505-277-3219
Email: tmontoya@law.unm.edu

For additional information about the New Mexico Public Defender Department and the job posting,
see the Department's website at www.pdd.state.nm.us