

270 Washington Street
Suite 6079
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-795-2440
www.gapubdef.org

State Level Position

Location: Clayton Judicial Circuit

Salary: Currently \$138,473.00 | \$175,000.00 after January 1, 2027

Deadline: 5:00 PM on April 24, 2026

Job Description, Responsibilities, and Qualifications:

The Georgia Public Defender Council is accepting résumés for the position of Circuit Public Defender in the Clayton Judicial Circuit.

The Clayton Circuit Public Defender's Office represents indigent persons charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes and acts of juvenile delinquency in the Clayton Judicial Circuit, which covers Clayton County.

The state salary is \$138,473 annually, not including any potential county-paid supplement. Per HB 1020, Circuit Public Defender state salaries will increase to \$175,000.00 effective January 1, 2027.

Job Description:

Serves as the Circuit office head, and reports to the Executive Director of the Georgia Public Defender Council. The Circuit Public Defender will make key decisions regarding the management of the Circuit, its budget, its staff, and its cases. The Circuit Public Defender serves at the pleasure of the Georgia Public Defender Council's Executive Director.

Job Responsibilities (include but are not limited to):

Supervising and managing administration, budgeting, and operation of indigent defense across the circuit; supervising and mentoring Assistant Public Defenders, investigators, paraprofessionals, clerical assistants, and independent contractors; and establishing a method for identifying conflicts of interest at the earliest possible opportunity.

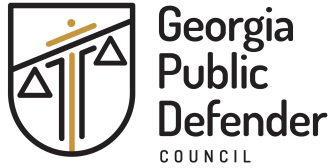
Performance Standards:

Appropriate use of state and local funds, proper management of state and local budgets, accurate reports of caseload by type, including conflict cases, accurate reports of state and local budgets and expenditures, and ethical, zealous, individualized representation of each client entitled to the services of the Circuit Public Defender Office.

Minimum Qualifications:

Under OCGA § 17-12-21, to be eligible to fill the position of Circuit Public Defender, a person must have attained the age of 25 years; been duly admitted and licensed to practice law in the Superior Courts for at least three years; be a member in good standing of the





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State Bar of Georgia; and if previously disbarred from the practice of law, have been reinstated as provided by law.

Preferred Qualifications:

Candidates for the position of Circuit Public Defender should possess: a strong, demonstrable interest in the effective defense of indigent people accused of crimes; sufficient experience in the defense of criminal cases (or equivalent trial experience) to permit the candidate to evaluate the qualifications of the Assistant Public Defenders employed in the Circuit and to train or assist in the training of less-experienced public defenders; experience as lead counsel in the defense of a person accused of a crime in at least ten felony cases tried to completion before a jury, at least two of which involved potential sentences of life in prison; leadership skills and the ability to oversee the management of a Circuit Public Defender office and insure that policies implemented by GPDC are consistently met or exceeded throughout the circuit; and the ability to establish and maintain sound fiscal policy and practice, supervise attorneys and other staff, communicate well with other participants in the criminal justice system, as well as with local government representatives.

Interested applicants should submit the [State of Georgia Sensitive Position Employment Application](#), résumé, and cover letter via email to: GPDC c/o Thomas O'Connor: toconnor@gapubdef.org with the subject line "Clayton Circuit Public Defender Position."

