

Working Job Title: Second Chair Attorney
Job Title: Attorney III
Job Code: LEP022
Grade: M

Salary Minimum: \$46,310.72
Salary Midpoint: \$66,158.17
Salary Maximum: \$81,043.76

Description of Duties: The Second Chair Attorney will provide competent and zealous representation and advocacy to indigent clients facing the death penalty. This position performs as a lead attorney, assigned to serious, high-profile, and significant felony cases. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Represent clients and advocate with courage and devotion to ensure that constitutional and other legal rights are protected; and render effective, high-quality legal representation with integrity.
- Provide effective assistance of counsel in accordance with the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases.
- Courtroom advocacy in pre-trial, trial, and post-trial proceedings.
- Development and maintenance of positive and productive working relationships with clients and significant other case participants.
- Researches relevant case law and interprets in relation to the facts of the case; researches the terms, procedures, or science used in other fields that may be relevant to a case; prepares briefs and motions and responses to same; writes case summaries; drafts jury charges; and makes trial notes.
- Represents clients in court at various stages of cases, including arraignments, preliminary and pre-trial hearings, post-adjudication/post-conviction hearings, appeals, or any related courtroom proceedings: negotiates at all stages on behalf of the client; prepares and argues motions; makes opening and closing statements, presents evidence, and questions witnesses; and makes appropriate objections and arguments.
- Attends scheduled court appearances; creates new case files, inputs, and records case-related data and notes, logs case activities, and closes files; receives and reviews calendars; and coordinates with court administration, clients, witnesses, experts, and others.
- Reviews discovery; interviews clients in and out of custody; requests and inspects records and evidence; review criminal histories; prepares graphics and exhibits; explore alternative explanations for the alleged incident; follows up on defense leads; identifies and interviews witnesses and alibis; observes crime scenes; subpoenas witnesses and prepares them for trial; prepares clients for trial; determines the need for, procures, and interviews expert witnesses; assesses the need for psychological/psychiatric evaluation of client; anticipates legal issues;

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL

develops defense theory and case strategies.

- Receives and reviews various documentation, including police reports, witness statements, laboratory reports, criminal histories, defense motions, and case law updates; reviews, completes, processes, forwards, or retains as appropriate; prepares or completes various forms, reports,
- correspondence, and other documentation, including a variety of motions, orders, letters, notices, petitions, legal briefs, trial summaries, and departmental reports; compiles data for further processing or use in the preparation of department reports, and maintains computerized and/or hardcopy records.
- Develops trusting and supportive attorney-client relationship; explains and advises clients regarding their rights, the investigative and judicial process, and the advisability of alternative courses of action; provides updates regarding case status.
- Leads and coordinates daily work activities of assigned co-workers.
- Attends conferences, seminars, meetings, and training events relevant to the area of expertise; keeps abreast of legal changes, and participates in professional organizations.
- Communicates with prosecuting attorneys, judges, investigators, legal support staff, witnesses, experts, translators, client friends and family, probation officers, supervisor, government officials, other employees, the public, and other individuals as needed to coordinate work activities, review the status of work, present or exchange information, provide legal counsel and interpretation, or resolve problems.
- Serves at the pleasure of the Executive Director.

THIS IS AN UNCLASSIFIED POSITION.

THE SELECTED APPLICANT FOR THE POSITION WILL BE SUBJECT TO A REFERENCE CHECK.

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL RELEVANT JOB INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION.

The selected candidate must meet the advertised minimum qualifications and any other qualifications specific to the job responsibilities.

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Juris Doctorate from an accredited college or university AND license to practice law in the State of Georgia
- **OR**
- Eligibility to sit for the next Georgia Bar examination
- **OR**
- Reciprocity AND Two years of relevant legal experience
- **OR**
- Two years of experience required at the lower-level Attorney 2 (LEP021)

AGENCY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Juris Doctorate from an accredited college or university AND license to practice law in the State of Georgia.
- Possesses 3-5 years of criminal defense trial experience.
- Possesses significant jury trial experience with the experience of being a lead or co-counsel in one or more murder or serious violent felony cases to verdict.
- Must be familiar with and able to follow the ABA Guidelines for Representation in Death Penalty Cases.
- Possesses a valid driver's license.
- Demonstrates proficiency in the performance of the essential duties and responsibilities.
- Demonstrates the knowledge to conduct case research and documentation.
- Knowledge of statutes, court decisions, federal and state laws, and local criminal laws.
- Demonstrates the knowledge to investigate and prepare cases for hearings and trials.
- Ability to plan the work of assigned staff.
- Makes sound and well-informed decisions; perceives the impact and implications of decisions; commits to action, even in uncertain situations, to accomplish organizational goals; causes change.
- Demonstrates excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including superior written and spoken communication.
- Displays a high level of commitment toward work and a high standard of ethical conduct.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER