

Where We Are

San Francisco is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, with residents of African American (5.8%), Asian (33%), Caucasian (41.9%), Hispanic (15.1%), Native American (0.2%), Pacific Islander (0.4%), and other (3.5%) descent.

The San Francisco Public Defender's Office is statutorily mandated to defend individuals who are not financially able to employ counsel, and who are charged with the commission of any contempt or offense, triable in the superior courts.

The Public Defender's Office also has Juvenile, Immigration, and Mental Health Units. These units have teams of attorneys, social workers, investigators, and advocates who represent San Francisco's diverse community and are dedicated to both the legal and collateral needs of our clients.

The Role: Interns and Volunteers

The Office's nationally recognized program is designed to give students not just an understanding of the criminal justice system, but hands-on experience with representing clients. Interns are assigned to work with a staff attorney, writing motions, meeting clients, attending case conferences, reviewing investigation results, and attending consultations with experts. Interns certified to practice law may also be given the opportunity to argue motions and make appearances on behalf of clients in court. As well, Interns assist with follow-up client interviews, and legal research and writing.

Intern With

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC
DEFENDER



Is It Right For You?

We are looking for students who are committed to indigent criminal defense. Interns with a general interest in criminal law or who view being a prosecutor as a possible career choice should not apply. We are looking for students with a passion for working for the underprivileged, the marginalized, and the forgotten in society. We want students with strong written and oral communication skills – who are willing to think like advocates and fight for our clients.

Internships are offered throughout the year and are broken up into 3 sessions. We have opportunities for applicants interested in working with our adult clients at our downtown office. There are also limited number of positions available in our Juvenile office as well as in our Investigations Unit. All internships are unpaid.

(Photo: Public Defenders kneel and take part of national demonstrations)



Getting Started

To apply, interested applicants should complete the intern application online at <http://sfinterns.com/#page-content> and include a cover letter and resume addressing the interest in and motivation to with the Public Defender's Office specifically. For any questions, feel free to contact Kathy Asada at pubdef.internship@sfgov.org

“Join a dynamic group of talented advocates?”

The San Francisco Public Defender's Office values equity, diversity, inclusivity, belonging, and fairness. We encourage women, people of color, and persons with disabilities to apply. Applicants will be considered regardless of the race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender orientation or expression, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or military and veteran status of any person.

