

SENIOR ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER - FORENSICS

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is specialized work in the office of the Public Defender involving responsibility for assisting the trial attorneys with the difficult and complex issues surrounding the use of DNA and other forensic evidence in criminal cases. Forensic evidence consists of all physical objects that can be observed by the five human senses, including substances, chemicals, tissue traces, and/or impressions. The incumbent will provide legal representation for indigent defendants as assigned by the Public Defender. The work is performed under the direct supervision of the Public Defender with leeway allowed for exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out assignments in accordance with specific laws and office procedures. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Represents and counsels defendants through all stages of proceedings following arrest through and including any appeals;
Assists the Public Defender in the investigation, preparation, conduct, and appeal in various court and legal proceedings;
Initiates proceedings as are necessary to protect the rights of the accused;
Corresponds with referral and interventional social agencies to arrange for clients counseling and/or in-patient treatment as component of negotiated dispositions;
Confers with defendants, law enforcement officers, judges and District attorneys concerning individual cases;
Bridges a connection between forensics and law to bring support to court cases;
Performs a dual role as an expert in both law and forensic science to draw conclusions and bring support to court cases;
Studies evidence found at a crime scene, gathers information, makes deductions and analyses samples, both in a laboratory and in a crime scene setting.
Preparation of briefs and presentation of a defense before a jury;

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practice of criminal law;
Thorough knowledge of court procedures and the rules of evidence;
Thorough knowledge of and skill in the preparation of briefs and in the presentation of a defense before a jury;
Ability to analyze, appraise and apply legal principles, facts and precedent to forensic legal problems;
Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team;
Ability to prioritize and manage a high-volume work load;
Ability to express arguments of the law clearly and concisely;
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
Ability to maintain satisfactory working relationships with other Court officials, police agencies, attorneys and the public;
Ability to remain professional and analytical in unpleasant situations;

Ability to operate a computer and use various software programs;
Ability to prepare and maintain a variety of reports;
Ability to express arguments of the law, clearly and concisely;
Good professional judgment;
Initiative;
Dependability,
Tact.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Duly admitted to the New York State Bar and licensed to practice as an attorney in the State of New York, and two years of experience in performing forensic legal work.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York will be required at time of appointment and maintained throughout employment while in this title.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Incumbents in this position are required by the County Legislature to reside within the County of Broome, OR an adjoining county (TIOGA, CORTLAND, DELAWARE OR CHENANGO) at all times during their employment in the title.