

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE**

<http://waw.fd.org/>

Application Deadline: **Wednesday November 18, 2020 @ 4:00pm**

The Federal Public Defender (FPD) for the Western District of Washington (WAW) was established in the spring of 1975 to ensure the Sixth Amendment right to effective counsel and equal access to justice for defendants accused of federal crimes. The office also provides support and training for lawyers who accept appointments to represent financially qualified clients under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), the law which assures professional legal counsel in federal courts by paying an hourly fee for court appointed lawyers who serve clients without the means to pay for legal services.

The FDP Seattle office contributes research and support to both high-profile federal cases and more local defense efforts. UW interns analyze case documents, reports, surveillance video, and recorded telephone conversations. In some cases, their research efforts have been instrumental in obtaining reduced sentences for clients. In complex drug cases, student interns have created charts to demonstrate direct links between defendants and transactions.

The Federal Public Defender internships are unpaid. This year, the Department of Sociology will be able to place up to two (2) student interns at the FPD offices.

**Desired qualifications**

The Federal Public Defender internship is suited for students with a strong commitment to equal justice under the law. All case information is strictly confidential and, because of the sensitivity of the work, the utmost levels of professionalism and responsibility are required.

Student interns need to demonstrate excellent research and writing skills, familiarity with social media, and have the ability to analyze and explain complex information. They should be able to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team. Strong technological skills, particularly in web design, video or audio editing, and visual presentation software (Adobe suite, etc.) are highly desirable. Proficiency in Spanish is a bonus.

**Intern responsibilities**

FPD interns volunteer for 12+ hours/week during regular FPD office hours in the downtown Seattle location during Winter and Spring quarters. However, due to COVID 19, interns can work remotely as needed.

UW Interns may support attorneys, investigators, and paralegals in defending individual cases. This may include carefully surveying and summarizing records, compiling sociological research, assisting with social media investigation, and contributing to case strategy. Interns may be asked to support the defense team by creating effective trial and sentencing presentation materials, and train others in the use of software programs.

**Important things to know:**

- The Federal Public Defender internship position is a two-quarter commitment for Winter and Spring quarters. Students who are offered an internship position must also register for SOC 404 (WED 12:30-2:20pm), a weekly two-hour seminar, in Winter quarter. In Spring quarter, students earn academic credit through enrolling in SOC 399 while completing the second quarter of their internship.
- Student interns will be working at the downtown offices of the Federal Public Defender, located in the Westlake building at 1601 Fifth Ave, Suite 700, Seattle 98101. However, during COVID 19, teleworking is an option and encouraged.
- Interns provide their own transportation to and from the FPD office.
- Applicants must be current UW-Seattle students and U.S. citizens or legal residents. Priority will be given to Sociology majors but students from other majors are welcome to apply.
- As part of the application process, students will have an initial interview with Susanna Hansson in the Sociology Advising office. Finalists for the positions will then interview with Federal Public Defender staff. All interview times will be set up with students via their UW email.
- The complete applications, including academic records, of students who become finalists are shared with staff at the internship location.

**Schedule:**

- Students who are offered an internship position must make an appointment with FPD staff to have their fingerprints taken prior to beginning the internship (ideally in December 2020).
- The weekly commitment is 12 + hours per week during regular FPD office hours for 9 weeks in both Winter and Spring quarters.
- The Federal Public Defender offices in Seattle are open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm
- FPD weekly staff meetings are on Wednesdays at 12 noon and student interns are encouraged to attend. Past interns have found these meetings to be helpful. There is a weekly meeting with all undergrad interns on Thursdays at 10 am.