



WHATCOM COUNTY DEPUTY - PUBLIC DEFENDER

Application Process

Submit a [Whatcom County application](#) online.

Whatcom County
Human Resources
311 Grand Ave. Ste 107
Bellingham, WA 98225

HR@co.whatcom.wa.us
(360) 778-5300

Salary & Benefits

\$7,009 - \$10,258 monthly, DOQ

Whatcom County offers a comprehensive benefits package with medical, dental and vision coverage for employees, spouses and eligible dependents. Our benefits package also includes attractive paid leave provisions, including a Paid Time Off program, an average of 13 paid holidays per year, and life insurance for employees.

Employees participate in the Washington State Retirement System and may select from two deferred compensation programs. The County provides a match of up to 2% of salary for deferred compensation plan contributions.



The Whatcom County Public Defender's Office is seeking experienced criminal defense attorney applicants for a Deputy II or a Senior Deputy, DOQ. The office of the Public Defender serves indigent clients in Whatcom County and is currently staffed by 42 employees, including deputies, investigators, support staff, and behavioral health specialists.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

- Acts as court-appointed counsel representing individuals accused of misdemeanors or felonies in superior, district and juvenile courts as assigned. Represents appointed clients in all phases of criminal proceedings, including arraignment, pretrial hearings, trial preparation, plea negotiations, trial and sentencing. Responsible for the investigation and preparation of each case assigned.
- Primary caseload consists of misdemeanor, juvenile, or felony cases based upon experience. Assists management and other staff, as directed.
- Interviews defendants as assigned to determine the facts of the case. Reviews police and other reports to evaluate each case against the state of the law to determine its relative strengths and weaknesses, to prepare for plea negotiations, development of case strategy, and trial preparation.
- Conducts all trial actions including selection of jury, cross and direct examination, introduction of evidence and exhibits and makes arguments on the law and interpretation of the evidence.
- Represents defendants at all legal proceedings including, but not limited to: arraignments, pre-trial motions, guilty pleas and post-trial matters, such as restitution hearings and sentence reviews, presenting defense recommendations for disposition of cases.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a current member in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association, OR must be a current member in good standing of another State Bar Association AND must become a member of the Washington State Bar Association by passing the next Washington State Bar exam.
- Deputy II also requires 3 three years of experience as a public defender, prosecuting attorney, or private criminal defense counsel and qualified under the Standards of Indigent Defense to handle felony cases.
- Senior Deputy also requires six years of experience as a public defender, prosecuting attorney, or private criminal defense counsel AND qualified under the Standards of Indigent Defense to handle felony cases OR qualified for class A.

***"An Opportunity to Distinguish Yourself in Public Service
and Make a Commitment to Whatcom County's Future"***

See full [job description](#) for more information or visit www.whatcomcounty.us/jobs



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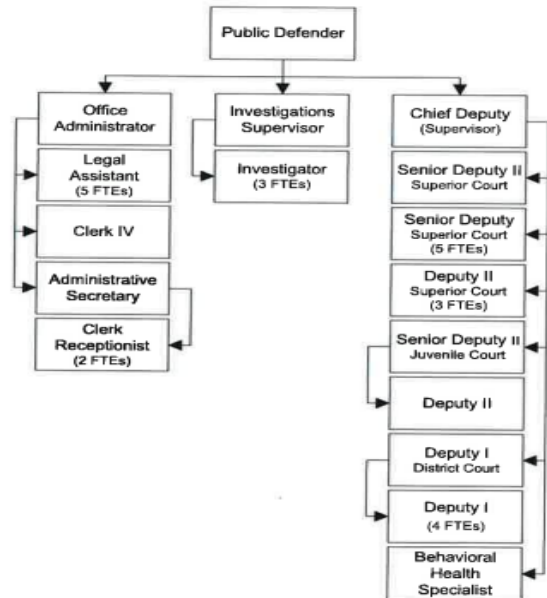
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Created in 1982 by County ordinance, the Public Defender's Office provides indigent legal defense for felony, misdemeanor and probation violation charges against adults and juveniles in Whatcom County Superior and District Courts and for individuals undergoing involuntary mental health and alcohol commitment proceedings.

The overall mission of the department is to provide high quality legal representation as efficiently and economically as possible, while maintaining the confidence of clients that they are receiving competent and skilled representation.

The Public Defender's Office also works with other branches of the criminal justice system (the Washington State Bar Association, the Office of Public Defense, Department of Social and Health Services, and the Attorney General's Office) to continue the implementation and expansion of drug court, family treatment court and mental health court in Whatcom County.

For more information visit <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/311/Public-Defender>. You may also view the Public Defender's Office Budget online.



BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Located amid the green islands of the Washington coast and the majestic peak of Mt. Baker, Bellingham is a cozy community shared by about 82,000 people. Less than 20 miles south of Canada, Bellingham boasts one of grandest natural harbors in the northwest, able to dock the largest ocean vessels. Because of its central location and proximity to the coast, Bellingham is a transportation center connecting Seattle and Vancouver with the San Juan Islands and Alaska. As a commerce hub for the region, this harbor town boasts a healthy economy, the gorgeous natural beauty the Pacific Northwest is known for, and some of the friendliest locals around. Bellingham combines local industry, the savvy of a college town, and a robust lifestyle dating back to 1852. The city is filled with magnificent scenery, a culture of outdoor recreation, Western Washington University, the Alaska Ferry, the Canadian border, Mt. Baker, the Salish Sea, local food, spirits, art and music. These are all part of the genuine Bellingham experience.



For more details about our wonderful community, visit Bellingham's Chamber of Commerce website at www.bellingham.com.

