

August 30, 2024
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
First Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois
Saline County, Illinois

POSITION:	Chief Public Defender – Saline County, Illinois
EMPLOYER:	Illinois First Judicial Circuit Court
OFFICE:	Harrisburg, Illinois
BENEFITS:	An attractive benefits package is offered, including IMRF pension, medical, dental, vision and life insurance, as well as deferred compensation and generous leave time.
SALARY:	\$145,879.20 per year pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/3-4007(b)

JOB DESCRIPTION: Saline County, Illinois has established its first-ever Office of the Public Defender effective December 1, 2024, with funding sufficient to employ a Chief Public Defender, multiple Assistant Public Defenders, a contract attorney dedicated to representing minors in juvenile cases, a Client Advocate, an Administrative Assistant, equipment, supplies, software, travel, and training. If you are looking for a challenging career as a trial attorney with a busy trial docket and an opportunity to build and manage a first-class team serving the public, then this opportunity may be right for you.

The Chief Public Defender’s duties are set forth at [55 ILCS 5/3-4006](#), and generally involve providing legal representation to indigent individuals primarily in the areas of criminal, quasi-criminal, and juvenile litigation proceedings. This full-time position includes the representation of clients as lead trial counsel in felony, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile, mental health commitment, post-conviction, Sexually Dangerous and Violent Persons, and criminal contempt proceedings and related matters, as assigned by the Saline County Circuit Court. The Chief Public Defender serves as the department head and administrator of the Public Defender’s Office and at the pleasure of the Circuit Judges of the Illinois First Judicial Circuit Court. Performance will be subject to annual review. The Chief Public Defender is responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing all lawyer and non-lawyer staff employed by the Public Defender’s Office. The Chief Public Defender plays a vital role in developing legal strategies, maintaining compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, ethical standards, and continuing education requirements for all employees of the office, as well as establishing and enforcing office policies and procedures. The Chief Public Defender is responsible for preparing and negotiating with the Saline County Board on the annual budget of the Public Defender’s Office and operating the office within that budget. The Chief Public Defender establishes and maintains strong working relationships with the First Judicial Circuit, justice partners, elected county and state officials, Court officers, private defense attorneys, and local Bar Associations.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Juris Doctor (JD) degree from an American Bar Association (A.B.A.) accredited law school.
- Duly licensed attorney at law in the State of Illinois in good standing with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.
- Minimum of eight (8) years of experience practicing primarily or exclusively in felony criminal litigation with first-chair felony criminal jury trial experience within the past five (5) years.

- Demonstrated excellence in criminal trial litigation and juvenile abuse/neglect and delinquency cases.
- Excellent legal research and writing skills.
- Experience in personnel management and training, budget and accounting and technology competence.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested individuals should email a cover letter and resume to: judgesoffice@salinecounty.illinois.gov.

Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2024.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER