**Office of the Public Defender**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

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EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Date of Posting: September 2, 2016

Position: Assistant Public Defender

The Office of the Public Defender has an opening for an Assistant Public Defender. The position requires representing a culturally diverse population accused of traffic offenses, probation violations, misdemeanors and felonies in Superior Court as well as writing and arguing appeals in the CNMI Supreme Court.

The applicant must possess a J.D. degree from an ABA accredited law school and be admitted to practice law in a state or territory in good standing such that he or she is eligible for a four year temporary admittance to the CNMI Bar Association and at least two years of criminal experience with good legal writing and research skills. This position will focus on jury trials, bench trials, an extensive motion practice with some appellate work possible. This can be an interesting and rewarding life style and practice for the right person, but it’s not for everyone.

Duties and Responsibilities:

* Handle all aspects of criminal defense with an emphasis on appeals and limited opportunity for bench and jury trials in misdemeanor and felony cases.
  + Represent clients at preliminary matters such as bail hearings, Gerstein hearings, Rule 5 hearings, preliminary hearings and arraignments.
  + Prepare and argue pretrial motions such as suppression and evidentiary motions as well as post-conviction motions.
  + Represent clients at status conferences, change of plea hearings, trials and sentencing hearings.
  + Conduct investigations and interview witnesses.
  + Give legal advice to clients.
  + Negotiate with opposing counsel.
  + May involve writing and arguing appeals in the CNMI Supreme court.

Salary: Negotiable and dependent on experience.

The Office:

The office is located on Saipan in the Northern Marians Islands (CNMI), 125 miles north of Guam. The population is less than 50,000 for all the islands, Saipan is less than 45,000. The Public Defender (PD) services all of the CNMI with cases pending on all three of the populated islands; Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

We are a 5 lawyer office with a support staff of an office manager, a legal assistant and an investigator. The budget is limited. Getting and using experts is rare. We do a lot of our own investigation. Challenging the constitutionality of police actions and local statutes is integral to our practice and an evolving part of the law. We have our own cases but often need to cover court hearings for each other.

Location:

Saipan, as well as all of the CNMI, is a beautiful tropical island. The largest of the three main islands it is about 15 miles long and 5 miles wide with lots of outdoor activities such as golf, snorkeling, scuba diving and fishing. There is a diverse population with a large number of Chinese and Filipinos as well as the indigenous Carolinians and Chamorros. There is one small underfunded hospital, no public transportation, several Asian restaurants and one Movie Theater. It’s hot and wet in the summer and dry and pleasant in the winter. It’s proximity to Asia allows some travel opportunities for the more adventurous.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and two writing samples to the above address or email Doug Hartig at hartig.pdo@gmail.com