



PUBLIC DEFENDERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY

A bit about our agency. . .

Public Defenders in Kentucky work for a state agency called the Department of Public Advocacy (DPA). The Kentucky DPA is recognized as a model state-wide public defender system, representing individuals at both trial and post-trial levels (Appeals, Post-Conviction, Capital Post-Conviction, and Juvenile Post-Disposition).

Newly-hired public defenders receive over 150 hours of training in their first year with the agency. This training puts the students on their feet practicing skills they will need in a courtroom and prepares them to become experts in Kentucky's criminal law. Kentucky's Public Defender College is nationally recognized as one of the best defender training programs in the country.

We serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky by protecting the rights of its poorest citizens. We seek dedicated and highly motivated individuals with a strong desire to serve those who often do not have a voice in the criminal legal system. We seek individuals who will enrich our agency and our practice by sharing their varied perspectives and approaches.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES. . .

Kentucky DPA offers several ways for law students to obtain pro bono hours. Most of these opportunities can be completed remotely. If you wish to meet a trial office team and attend court with them, that can be arranged!

To request a pro bono assignment, contact: Patti Heying, Recruiter Patti.Heying@ky.gov
Prior to starting your assignment, we require you to read and sign a Confidentiality Agreement.

Trial Offices

- Review body cam footage and provide case-relevant time-stamped notations
- Listen to recorded jail calls and provide case-relevant notations
- Review and Organize discovery for an upcoming trial
- Research motions

Post-Trials Appeals Branch

- Transcribe a video recording of a trial
- Issue spotting while transcribing and making case-relevant notations for the attorney

Education Branch

- Update Education Training Manuals
 - Check citations to be sure they are still current
 - Provide updated information on any citations which are not current
- Data Collection for WIN (Witness Information Network)
 - Research civil lawsuits involving claims of police misconduct
 - Catalogue information and writing summaries of cases
 - Researching newspaper and other media for articles on police misconduct

For more information about the Kentucky DPA: <https://dpa.ky.gov>