

The Federal Defender Services of Idaho is accepting applications from first-and second-year law students for a summer legal internship position with the Capital Habeas Unit (CHU) for Summer 2027. The CHU, located in Boise, Idaho, represents individuals under sentence of death in Idaho, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Oklahoma in their collateral challenges in state post-conviction and federal habeas litigation, as well as in related method-of-execution actions and clemency proceedings. Currently, the office also has several non-capital habeas cases for state inmates as well.

Our interns assist attorneys and investigators at all stages of client representation, including interviewing clients and witnesses, reviewing and organizing discovery materials, researching federal constitutional and criminal law issues, drafting pleadings, and attending court proceedings. Interns will also have opportunities to observe criminal trials and hearings with our trial unit. If interns are interested, they can in addition do some work with our trial unit. This is an unpaid internship that begins on June 07, 2027 and ends on August 06, 2027, with some flexibility in the dates. Housing is not provided.

The CHU is comprised of five assistant federal defenders, two investigators, and three paralegals. Working in a smaller office allows our interns to get extensive one-on-one time with the attorneys and staff and to be extremely involved with the case teams. Interns are invited to all team meetings and are guaranteed a writing sample by the end of the summer, which will be a section of a pleading that is filed in court and which will have gone through at least three rounds of edits and feedback by an attorney. Our interns are all invited to visit our clients in person on death row and to speak to them on the phone. Boise is a small, but culturally rich community with amazing outdoor activities and events during the summer.

To apply, please forward a letter of interest, current transcript, resume, a short writing sample, and two references in a single pdf to Jonah Horwitz at Jonah.Horwitz@fd.org. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with priority given to those applicants who have submitted their materials by January 29, 2027. However, earlier applications are usually the most successful. Limited positions are available. People of color and other minorities underrepresented in the legal profession are especially encouraged to apply.