

Chief Judge Eugene G. Doherty  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court  
Winnebago County Courthouse  
400 West State Street- Rm. 215  
Rockford, Illinois 61101

***NOTICE OF VACANCY:***

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court is accepting applications for the position of Winnebago County Public Defender. This position shall become vacant upon the retirement of the current Public Defender on April 23, 2021.

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The duties of the Public Defender are established by statute, (55 ILCS 5/3-4006). The Winnebago County Public Defender's Office is appointed by the Court to represent indigent clients in felony, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile delinquency and juvenile abuse / neglect cases. The Office is also provides representation to adults and juveniles involved in Problem-Solving Court programs.

The Winnebago County Public Defender appoints and supervises staff attorneys and support personnel. The office is currently comprised of 29 full time assistant public defenders and 11 support staff. The Public Defender establishes office policies, prepares departmental budgets, and performs related work as required. The Public Defender also assigns, directs, and evaluates the work of the staff attorneys in providing competent legal services to the public within the rules of law and professional responsibility. The Public Defender must have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, court personnel, public officials, the public, and members of the local Bar Association.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

Applicants must be licensed to practice law in Illinois, be in good standing with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and have at least five years experience in providing criminal legal services including felony trial work and experience in other areas of criminal law. In addition to an excellent command of substantive criminal law, other qualifications should include proven effective administrative skills, knowledge of modern methods and practices of criminal law, interviewing and counseling techniques, ability to train and develop staff professionals in legal research and presentation methods, and the ability to anticipate and resolve various related problems as they arise. Knowledge of problem-solving court's protocol and procedures is desirable.

**SALARY AND BENEFITS:**

The salary is set by statute at not less than 90% of the compensation of the Winnebago County State's Attorney. The expected starting salary for this position is \$161,000.00 per year. Winneabgo County benefits package included. This is a full time position. The Public Defender cannot engage in the private practice of law.

**TO APPLY:**

All applicants must complete an application available at the Office of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit and on the Seventeenth Judicial Court Website – [www.17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](http://www.17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov). If you so desire, you may request that an application be e-mailed to you by submitting your request to: [kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov). An application will be e-mailed to you as soon as possible during working hours.

**SEND A COVER LETTER, RÉSUMÉ AND COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO: Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge Kathy Fink at [kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov). Applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.**

**POSTED: February 4, 2021**

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**