

Idaho State Public Defender
322 E. Front Street, Suite 590
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 605-4575

The office of the Idaho State Public Defender (SPD) is now accepting applications for law student interns and externs for Summer 2027. The number of available placements and in which offices may fluctuate as budget allows.

The State Public Defender (SPD) is a client-centered agency which provides holistic representation that meets the highest ethical and professional standards to protect the rights of people who cannot afford to retain counsel. The agency supports a fair and just legal system that values the humanity and dignity of all and requires integrity in all lawyer-client relationships. All public defense in Idaho is funded by the State of Idaho and managed by the State Public Defender. Our employees work with the highest levels of diligence, respect, and compassion for our clients and strive to innovate and find solutions in every case we handle.

With close supervision and guidance from experienced attorneys, interns/externs will be involved in the following activities:

- Reviewing trial court records and evaluating legal claims;
- Drafting briefs;
- Conducting legal research and drafting memoranda; and
- Participating in attorney issue conferences and moot arguments.

In addition, interns/externs may be involved in:

- Communicating with clients in-person, over the phone, and/or in writing;
- Drafting motions; and
- Observing/appearing for hearings and/or depositions.

The SPD will consider applications from current 2Ls who will complete their 2L year after the Spring 2027 semester, making them eligible for a Limited License from the Idaho State Bar by Summer 2027. Interns/externs must have excellent research and writing skills and be creative, critical thinkers. Interns/externs must be comfortable working with clients from diverse backgrounds. Successful candidates will have strong academic credentials and an interest in indigent defense. Applicants will be required to apply for and receive a Limited License from the Idaho State Bar. Interns/externs will receive a stipend of \$6,400 for 8 weeks of full-time work (320 hours total). Additionally, interns/externs who agree to be placed in one of our rural offices will receive a living expense stipend of \$4,000 to assist with rental and other relocation expenses. Rural office eligibility will be determined by the SPD.

To apply, please submit the following: (1) Cover letter; (2) Resume; (3) Most recent law school transcript (unofficial okay); and (4) Writing sample (no more than ten pages, excerpts okay) to Training & Development Director, Lindsey Welfley, at lindsey.welfley@spd.idaho.gov. For the writing sample, please indicate if any work is not your own.

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In your cover letter please indicate:

1. Which SPD office is your first choice and any subsequent choices, including availability to temporarily relocate to a rural office;
2. Your area(s) of legal interest; and
3. What you would like to get out of this experience.

Please direct any questions about eligibility or placement options to Training & Development Director, Lindsey Welfley, at lindsey.welfley@spd.idaho.gov or 208-985-5626.