

**COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES**  
**44 Bromfield Street**  
**Boston, MA 02108**

**Position Posting**

**STAFF ATTORNEY**

*Committee for Public Counsel Services*  
*Alternative Commitment Unit, Trial Office*

The Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts public defender agency, is seeking an experienced trial attorney for its Alternative Commitment Unit (ACU) trial office located in Brockton.

**Description of Office:**

The ACU is comprised of an Attorney-in-Charge, three staff attorneys, and an administrative assistant. The caseload consists of proceedings under G.L. c. 123A in which the Commonwealth is seeking the initial civil commitment to or the continued confinement at the Nemasket Correctional Center (a.k.a. "Massachusetts Treatment Center") in Bridgewater of indigent clients previously convicted of sex crimes as "sexually dangerous persons" as defined by statute. The consequences of losing these trials are severe; "one day to life" incarceration in the state medium security prison. These are Superior Court jury trials generally running from 3 days to over a week with multiple expert witnesses. Most cases end in trial and attorneys will receive maximum trial experience. The ACU's attorneys represent their clients in opposing the commitment petitions, and they appear primarily in Superior Court divisions in eastern Massachusetts from Salem to Fall River, but may be required to appear in Superior Court divisions elsewhere in Massachusetts as necessary.

**Responsibilities:**

The duties of the staff attorney include:

- Full legal representation of indigent former sex offenders including counseling and all stages of litigation
- Visiting and counseling incarcerated clients, primarily at the Nemasket Correctional Center in Bridgewater
- Pre-trial investigation including locating and interviewing witnesses, preparing witnesses to testify, collecting, reviewing, and controlling often extensive documentary evidence
- Retaining and working with expert witnesses
- Mastering and remaining current with the developing body of empirical science relating to sex offender evaluation, treatment, and recidivism
- Writing and arguing legal motions with occasional interlocutory appeals
- Providing formal and informal assistance to private attorneys on cases assigned through the Private Counsel Division of C.P.C.S.

- Providing training to Public Defender Division and Private Counsel Division attorneys

**Requirements:**

Candidates must be eligible to practice law in this jurisdiction as a member of the Massachusetts Bar in good standing; or as an attorney in another jurisdiction who is eligible to engage in limited Massachusetts practice under Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:04. Candidates must also be able to work in a defense-oriented capacity, both independently and collaboratively, and be committed to working with a culturally diverse, low-income population. A minimum of one year prior experience as an attorney representing clients in criminal cases or sexually dangerous person commitment proceedings, is required. Finally, candidates must have access to an automobile for visits to incarcerated clients and court appearances. Necessary travel expenses are reimbursed.

**Salary:**

Salary for this position begins at \$48,314.24, with actual salary based on experience.

**Anticipated Start Date:**

The anticipated state date is September 15, 2010 although there is flexibility.

**Application:**

Interested candidates should submit (1) a written statement of interest summarizing your reasons for applying for this position, (2) résumé, (3) legal writing sample and (4) list of references. Applications should be submitted, by noon on August 20, 2010 by post or email to [ACUstaffattorney@publiccounsel.net](mailto:ACUstaffattorney@publiccounsel.net).

Debra Beard-Bader, Attorney-in-Charge  
CPCS Public Defender Division  
Alternative Commitment Unit  
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Brockton, MA 02301-4046

Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. Interviewing may begin prior to the closing date for applications.

**The Committee for Public Counsel Services is an equal opportunity employer.**

Date of Posting: August 2, 2010.