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# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Committee for Public Counsel Services*

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### **YOUTH ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT JUVENILE TRIAL PANEL DIRECTOR**

The Youth Advocacy Department (YAD), the juvenile defender department of CPCS, is committed to ensuring that every indigent child in Massachusetts has access to zealous legal representation in delinquency and youthful offender cases. YAD is committed to leading, training, supporting, and overseeing a diverse and collaborative juvenile defense bar made up of private appointed counsel and staff public defenders. The Trial Panel Director is a new position designed to provide supportive leadership, while assuring adherence to performance standards, to the private attorneys who make up the juvenile and youthful offender trial panel. YAD is seeking an attorney with experience, leadership, and management skills to enhance YAD's ability to support and oversee this important group of child advocates.

This position requires extensive experience in delinquency and youthful offender cases and/or criminal defense and reports directly to the Director of the Youth Advocacy Department. The Trial Panel Director will also work collaboratively with the Private Counsel Division, the Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division, and all of the private appointed counsel programs around the state.

#### ***Responsibilities***

The responsibilities of the Trial Panel Director, with the assistance of a senior staff attorney, will include:

- Providing leadership and support to the Delinquency and Youthful Offender Panel
- Overseeing and supporting YAD's Supervising and Resource Attorney programs
- Supporting and leading the Juvenile Defender Advisory Council
- Assuring that the Delinquency and Youthful Offender certification, recertification, and practice standards are appropriately implemented and regularly updated
- Responding to requests for advice from trial panel attorneys
- Collaborating with the YAD Training Director on training, the Juvenile Defender Network list serv, and the YAD website
- Promoting collaboration between CPCS staff attorneys and private appointed counsel
- Working on amicus briefs, legislation, and other policy matters

- Participating in activities with local and national organizations (such as the NJDC, NLADA, NACC or ABA) regarding juvenile justice and child welfare law and practice

### ***Requirements***

Candidates must be eligible to practice law in Massachusetts and have a minimum of five years experience as active criminal defense litigators. Specialized experience in juvenile defense would be of particular value, as would experience with child welfare and/or education cases. Candidates must be committed to promoting zealous advocacy on behalf of a culturally and geographically diverse, low income population. Strong candidates will be extremely well organized, excellent communicators (written and verbal), and highly collaborative. The position requires significant in state travel; a valid driver's license and access to an automobile are necessary.

### ***Salary***

Commensurate with experience.

### ***Application***

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, résumé, and legal writing sample to:

Theresa Flaherty  
Youth Advocacy Department  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
10 Malcolm X Blvd.  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Candidates may submit application materials by mail or email (tflaherty@publiccounsel.net). The letter of interest should include a description of the candidate's trial, supervisory, and administrative or management experience, as well as a discussion of his or her ideas and priorities for supporting and overseeing the Juvenile Private Appointed Counsel trial panel. Applications should also include a writing sample and a list of references. Applications should be submitted by September 15, 2010, but may be accepted until the position is filled. Interviewing may begin prior to September 15.

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

Date of Posting: July 28, 2010