

# Bonner County Job Description



**Title:** Deputy Public Defender Attorney  
**Department:** Public Defender Attorney’s Office  
**Supervisor:** Public Defender  
**Supervision Exercised:** Level 4 Attorneys and Above  
**BOCC Approval/Job Description Revision:** September 1, 2020

<b>Posting Title</b>	<b>Deputy Public Defender Attorney</b>
<b>General Summary</b>	<p>Represents the Indigent Defendant as a trial attorney in the defense of criminal, quasi-criminal, and civil actions in Juvenile, Magistrate, and District Court proceedings and assists the Public Defender in performing all of the statutory and constitutional functions of the Public Defender’s Office.</p> <p>This job classification includes five levels, which attorneys may be assigned to depending on organizational needs, professional legal experience, individual skill and expertise, individual proficiency, and complexity of the assigned caseload. Positions in these classes may be filled externally or by advancement internally. Progression from one level to the next is at the discretion of the Public Defender, provided minimum qualifications are met.</p>
<b>Attorney Classification Levels</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> Law clerks and entry level legal professionals, such as interns prior to passing the Idaho Bar. Employees at this level generally work under <i>immediate</i> supervision.</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> Attorneys handling primarily misdemeanor or juvenile matters, indigent adult clients, child protection, and competency matters. Must have at least 1-2 years of experience in a similar position. Employees at this level generally work under <i>general</i> supervision.</p> <p><b>Level 3:</b> Attorneys handling low to mid-level complexity felony cases and/or civil matters and serve as a back up to Level 4 Attorneys. Must have at least 3-4 years of experience in a similar position. Employees at this level generally work under <i>general to limited</i> supervision.</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> Attorneys handling high-level complexity felony cases and/or civil matters. Must have at least 4-5 years of experience in a similar position, especially trial and litigation experience. Employees at this level generally work under <i>limited</i> supervision. Level 4 Attorneys may provide basic day to day supervision to 1-3 Attorneys.</p> <p><b>Level 5:</b> Chief Deputy appointed by the Public Defender. Handles highly complex civil or criminal legal matters. Must have at least 5 years of experience in a similar or related position. Under <i>limited</i> supervision, the Chief Deputy supervises Attorneys at all levels and other department staff.</p>

<p><b>Essential Functions (Illustrative Only)</b></p>	<p>The essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following duties and responsibilities which are not listed in any particular order of priority and may be amended or added to by the County at any time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performs all duties of a Public Defender pursuant to Idaho Code, managing assigned cases from intake through disposition.</li> <li>2. Reviews incoming law enforcement reports and discovery to determine any evidentiary issues.</li> <li>3. Researches case-specific legal issues and prepares correspondence, witness lists, and other miscellaneous pleadings and legal documents as required.</li> <li>4. Negotiates potential case resolutions with prosecutor as appropriate, in accordance with facts, law, and policy.</li> <li>5. Prepares legal strategies, questions, jury selection, jury instruction, and opening and closing statements.</li> <li>6. Performs trial preparation, including witness preparation and interviews as needed in preparation for trial appearances.</li> <li>7. Presents evidence and argument at arraignments, preliminary hearings, hearings on motions, trials, and juvenile proceedings, in addition to any other hearings as needed.</li> <li>8. Screens and requests additional information required for the successful defense of each case.</li> <li>9. Answers inquiries from the public, law enforcement, other attorneys, the Court and any and all other sources as required.</li> <li>10. Attends meetings and training. Schedules and participates in telephone, video, and personal appointments with clients, witnesses, law enforcement, and others as needed.</li> <li>11. Maintains confidentiality and complies with the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct.</li> <li>12. Conducts legal research to stay abreast of court decisions and legislation affecting the practice of law.</li> <li>13. Reviews all work performed by secretarial staff.</li> <li>14. <b>Supervisory:</b> Level 4 Attorneys supervise lower level Attorneys, including but not limited to: Directing work assignments, managing performance, and coaching and mentoring.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Secondary Functions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performs any other court proceedings or miscellaneous tasks as directed by the Public Defender, including back-up support for all other divisions.</li> <li>2. Performs all other duties as assigned.</li> </ol>

<b>Specifications (In addition to specifications outlined by Attorney Level above)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sufficient combination of knowledge, skills, and abilities so as to competently perform the essential functions of the job. Requires Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited university.</li> <li>2. Must be certified by and in good standing with the Idaho State Bar and maintain the necessary continuing education to maintain certification and qualifications.</li> <li>3. Knowledge of and ability to implement strong public relations and communications skills as needed in working with members of the public and clients.</li> <li>4. Ability to conduct legal research, analysis, and writing.</li> <li>5. Familiar with the rules of law and evidence as they relate to the defense of criminal cases.</li> <li>6. Proficient grammar skills as used in the composing and proofreading of documents, memos, and other correspondence.</li> <li>7. Ability to work effectively with minimal supervision, under pressure, within time constraints.</li> <li>8. Ability to handle and professionally communicate confidential and sensitive information.</li> <li>9. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.</li> <li>10. Ability to develop and maintain harmonious working relationships with others, both inside and outside the organization.</li> <li>11. Computer proficiency, including the ability to operate case management tracking systems.</li> </ol>
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<b>Working Conditions</b>	Ability to perform those physical activities necessary to complete the essential functions of the job, either with or without reasonable accommodation. Requires continual communication (hearing and talking, both in person and over the telephone); walking, and repetitive motions. Requires good general vision.
<b>Disclaimer</b>	This job description is not an employment agreement or contract and management reserves the right to modify when necessary per Bonner County policy.

I have reviewed and agree this Job Description accurately reflect the current responsibilities of my position. I also acknowledge that it will be placed in my Personnel File.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_