

**ATASCOSA AREA REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**  
**(AARPDO)**

**Seeking AARPDO Assistant Public Defenders**

Assistant Public Defender

Salary: \$66,000 - \$88,000, plus benefits including health insurance and retirement.

Atascosa, Wilson, Karnes and Frio Counties (Four Counties of the 81<sup>st</sup>-218<sup>th</sup> Judicial District)

Deadline: October 28, 2022-5pm; please submit resume and cover letter via mail to Chief Public Defender, 1501 Campbell Ave, Jourdanton, TX 78026; or email to Chief Public Defender Becky James at [bjames@co.atascosa.tx.us](mailto:bjames@co.atascosa.tx.us); or drop off at the AARPDO office at 1501 Campbell Ave, Jourdanton, TX 78026.

Job Summary:

The newly created Atascosa Area Regional Public Defender's Office is seeking entry-level and experienced Assistant Public Defenders, to represent those too poor to hire legal counsel in the Counties of Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, and Wilson, located near San Antonio, Texas. This position provides quality legal defense to indigent individuals charged with misdemeanor, juvenile, and felony criminal offenses. This position offers excellent training, both within the office and through external organizations. Caseloads are limited pursuant to effective representation guidelines established by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. The office uses a team-based approach, which provides intensive mentoring and significant experience with the full range of cases handled by the office and the opportunity for increased responsibility with increased experience.

Entry-level Assistant Public Defenders will have primary responsibility, with supervision, to handle misdemeanor caseloads. Additional responsibilities will include assisting in felony trial preparation and trials and consulting with felony complainants and witnesses. Experienced Assistant Public Defenders will have primary responsibility for felony caseloads. Both positions will also include some appellate work.

This is an exciting opportunity to be on the ground floor of a holistic, client-centered regional public defender's office and to make a difference in clients' lives and in the criminal justice system as a whole. The office will be hiring a team of approximately 14 felony and misdemeanor Assistant Public Defenders to work together as energetic and enthusiastic advocates for indigent defendants. Atascosa, Wilson, Karnes and Frio Counties provide an idyllic rural lifestyle, kind-hearted residents, excellent schools, and amenities within a short drive. We are ideally located in South Central Texas. Our region is adjacent to San Antonio, and is a short drive from Austin, Houston and beaches along the Gulf Coast.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Juris Doctor degree from an accredited law school or anticipated for May 2023.

- Licensed by the State Bar of Texas and must be in good standing with the State Bar. Third-year law students, those studying for the bar, and those awaiting bar results will be considered.
- Valid Texas driver's license and reliable transportation.