

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

OTSEGO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Position & Department

The Public Defender shall be responsible for representation of individuals in both Criminal Court and Family Court. The Public Defender shall represent, without charge and by order of the Court with the consent of the defendant or other party, each indigent defendant or party who is charged with a crime or is a party in a civil action as defined by § 722(a) of the County Law. The Public Defender has responsibility for representing respondents or other parties in Family Court at all stages of the proceedings through appeals. The Public Defender may assign professional, technical and clerical personnel in the investigation, preparation, conduct and appeal in any court proceedings involving indigent defendants, respondents, or other parties. This position is appointed



by the County Board of Representatives in accordance with NY County Law § 716, with operational oversight by the Public Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. In addition, the Public Defender shall be responsible for overseeing and implementing the County's Counsel at First Appearance Program, including applying for available funding.

The previous Public Defender served since 2019 and the appointment will be by the County Board of Representatives for a two (2) year term effective January 1, 2022 or from the time of appointment until December 31, 2023. The position will be up for reappointment January 1, 2024.

The Vision

The next Public Defender will join a progressive leadership team. The position requires five (5) years of experience as a practicing attorney in the field of criminal and/or family law. Managerial experience is preferred. Desired professional and leadership attributes include:

- Ability to exhibit good professional and administrative judgement
- Excellent analytical skills
- Excellent litigation and negotiation skills
- Thorough knowledge of legal research practices, procedures and techniques
- Management skills and training necessary to effectively and efficiently manage the Department

The Community

Otsego County is a great place to live and work and offers many opportunities for entertainment, outdoor and cultural activities. We are located in the heart of the historic Leatherstocking Region of New York State, where you can enjoy spectacular scenery, arts, culture, and recreational activities year round. Otsego County is relatively rural in nature and is comprised of 24 towns, 9 villages, and 1 city. The County seat is Cooperstown. It is known as the Village of Museums, and is home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum, and the Farmers' Museum. Cooperstown is situated on beautiful Otsego Lake, which is the headwaters of the Susquehanna River.

Otsego County is centrally located between Binghamton, Albany, and Syracuse. The County is approximately 60 miles west of Albany at its eastern-most borders and 45 miles east of Binghamton at its western-most borders. According to the U.S. Census Bureau Otsego County has a population of approximately 60,000 and a total area of 1,016 square miles of which 1,002 square miles is land (98.6%) and 14 square miles (1.4%) is water. Otsego County has four lakes, each having a lake association that is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of their lake's community and environmental quality. The Otsego County Conservation Association carries out several programs with a network of member volunteers to improve and protect air, land, and water quality in Otsego County.



Employment in Otsego County is primarily focused in health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, finance and insurance and educational services. This reflects the County's strong healthcare, tourism and higher education industries. Bassett Medical Center is located in Cooperstown and is part of the Bassett Healthcare Network. The organization includes five affiliated hospitals, as well as skilled nursing facilities, community and school-based health centers, and health partners in related fields. There are two colleges in Otsego County: Hartwick College with a student population of approximately 1,500 and the State University of New York at Oneonta with a population of approximately 5,850 students. The Clarks Sports Center is a leader in health, fitness, recreational and educational life, and encompasses 64,000 square feet with 17 acres of playing fields. Glimmerglass Festival, known for its innovative and outstanding opera and theatre productions is located seven miles west of Cooperstown. There are also other concerts and music festivals offered in Cooperstown and surrounding areas in the County throughout the year. The Cooperstown area is also known for its micro and regional breweries, wineries, micro distillery and historic cider mill. There is a wide variety of dining options offering locally grown produce, cheeses and meats. From dining to boating, fishing, and golfing to enjoying music, theatre, fine arts and history, you will find that there is always something to enjoy in Otsego County!

The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will demonstrate the ability to communicate with a broad variety of audiences in an effective and positive manner. The Public Defender will be an individual who demonstrates the highest level of integrity, honesty and fairness. The ideal candidate will gain credibility and respect among the County Board of Representatives, Committees, County staff and the general public. The Public Defender is expected to set a positive example of competence, professionalism, energy, and work ethic for the County and community. The successful candidate must possess strong communication, organization and management skills.

Education & Experience

The successful candidate will have a Juris Doctor, 5 years of experience as a practicing attorney in the field of criminal and/or family law and is admitted to practice in the State of New York at the time of appointment. Managerial experience preferred.



Special Requirements

A certificate of good standing, and proof of registration is required at time of appointment. Otsego County residency is required for the duration of appointment.

Compensation & Benefits

The salary for the Public Defender position is a range between \$100,000 and \$120,000 annually, with a competitive compensation package that includes health benefits and participation in the New York State Retirement System. For questions, please contact Personnel Officer, Penney Gentile at gentilep@otsegocounty.com or 607.547.4239.

How to Apply

Applications available online at <http://www.otsegocounty.com> or at the Otsego County Personnel Department, 183 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Resumes may not be substituted for a completed application, but will be accepted in addition to the application.

Photo Credit: CooperstownLuxury.com

