



The Southern Public Defender Training Center

**Public Defender Office Application as a Partner
Site**

Fact Sheet

WHO WE ARE

SPDTC was established with a bold vision: to partner with public defender leaders across the South in an effort to develop a new generation of public defenders who possess the capacity, skills, commitment, and determination to provide outstanding representation to clients immediately and to develop into the future leaders of indigent defense in the region. In order to help train and support these young lawyers in this mission, SPDTC is building a collaborative community that includes other SPDTC members, graduates, the national public defender faculty, participating public defender offices, and other organizations equally committed to advancing standards of public defense.

WHAT SPDTC OFFERS SOUTHERN PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES

The SPDTC seeks to partner with public defender offices in the region in order to provide the following resources and services:

A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUR NEW LAWYERS

SPDTC offers an outstanding three year comprehensive training program for new public defenders that includes an intensive, three-year curriculum designed to support their professional development with skills that can be utilized immediately, support, guidance and mentorship from SPDTC faculty, and a peer network and community to support their growth as public defenders.

RECRUITMENT SUPPORT

Many of the most promising public defender candidates are eager to join the community we are building through SPDTC and are willing to consider placement in offices throughout the South. SPDTC helps partner offices recruit nationally by attending job fairs and presenting at law schools throughout the country in an effort to identify the best candidates for public defender careers and to provide these applicants with information about placement opportunities across the region. For any offices interested in being included, SPDTC will provide information about your office, and potential employment opportunities, to career service offices at law schools and to interested applicants directly through a written publication and a link on our website. The SPDTC will also work with interested offices to develop other recruitment strategies tailored to your needs.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

SPDTC is developing a network of public defender offices throughout the South by hosting a list serve, publishing an e-newsletter specifically for Southern public defender offices, and hosting periodic regional Public Defender Leadership Summits. These efforts are designed to build a community of existing defender leaders who will share ideas and help to facilitate the growth of our young lawyers, as well as to provide management and leadership support and training.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these services, learning more about the Southern Public Defender Training Center, or being added to our mailing list please fill out the attached Contact Information Sheet.

We recognize that this is a difficult time for public defender offices in the region, but we are committed to working with you to help improve the quality of representation your clients receive. Through aggressive fundraising efforts we are able to provide many of our services at NO COST to you and to significantly subsidize others.

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Phone: (404) 525-4505
Fax: (404) 525-0937
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Contact Information Sheet

Public Defender Office _____

Public Defender Chief _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

For those in your office who would like to be added to the SPDTC Mailing List, please include their names, titles, E-mail addresses and phone numbers below:

Name _____ Title _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Title _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Title _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Please provide a brief organizational overview

Size of office:

of Public Defenders: _____ # of Staff: _____

We are interested in receiving the following:

- Information and Application for SPDTC New Lawyer Training (please fill out the *Public Defender Office Application for New Lawyer Training Program*)
- Information about placing your public defender office in our Recruitment Manual and being featured in our Recruitment Materials. (please fill out the *SPDTC Recruitment Information Form*)
- Information about being a part of the SPDTC community and information about upcoming events.
- Information and background information about the SPDTC.

For additional information or to learn more about SPDTC, please contact Ilham Askia at (404) 525-4505ext. 101 or ilham@thespdtc.org.

New Lawyer Training Program Overview

MISSION

The mission of the Southern Public Defender Training Center (SPDTC) was formed to build a community of zealous committed public defenders and raise the standards of representation for indigent defendants in the southeastern United States through training provided to, and partnerships with, public defender offices across the region.

PROGRAM VISION

When SPDTC was established, it had a bold vision: to build the next generation of leaders with the capacity, skills, commitment and determination to support individuals who in collaboration with SPDTC Members, graduates, public defender offices, and other organizations, tied together by the mutual objective to advance standards of public defense, and thereby optimize the collective ability to advocate for systemic indigent defense reform. SPDTC is currently a fiscally sponsored program of the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR) an organization dedicated to enforcing the human rights of people in the criminal justice system in the deep South. Our unique approach training and leadership development is delivered in a highly experiential learning style and is designed to provide a diverse group of new public defenders equipped with the skills and values needed to immediately offer high quality, client-centered representation.

Our goal is to engage qualified candidates that are committed to:

1. Being the best “client-centered” advocates and being committed to the **client**, the **community**, and the **future** of public defense in our nation.
2. Joining a community of like-minded public defenders across the region that will expect to receive and provide support and peer leadership to their colleagues.
3. Becoming the future leaders in the effort to improve the quality of representation to poor people in the southern United States.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

The approximate cost per participant is \$20,000 for the entire program of which we are currently able to underwrite \$15,000 through generous funding. This enables us to charge public defender offices only \$5,000 to cover the 3-year program.

However, we do not want cost to be a barrier to participation in this program. If financial assistance is required, we can coordinate a payment plan or provide scholarship assistance for up to \$4,750 of the \$5,000 fee for qualifying applicants.



We are delighted that you would like to work with the Southern Public Defender Training Center to place an attorney in our program. As we begin this process together, we ask that you complete the information below. The process of completing this information can be a collaborative endeavor – we are happy to help you with your planning and answer any questions you may have.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Public Defender Office _____

Chief/CEO _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

ATTORNEY’S SUPERVISOR(S):

Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Contact for this application _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Size of Public Defender Office:

of Public Defenders: _____ # of Staff: _____

PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE PROFILE

MISSION STATEMENT OR SERVICE PROFILE:

Please feel free to provide any materials, (brochures, executive summary, etc.) that you feel will be beneficial supporting us in learning more about your office.

Please note: All SPDTC New Lawyer Training Program Candidates participate in a competitive process for acceptance. If you have an attorney who is interested in applying please have them fill out the **SPDTC New Lawyer Application** which is on our website www.thespdtc.org. The deadline for New Lawyer Applications is June 1st.

Your attorney's ability to commit themselves fully to the SPDTC Program is a vital element of their selection criteria. We request that each Host Organization sign the Employer's Agreement below:

To be signed by the attorney's CEO, Supervisor or Chief:

_____ has my full support to participate in the Southern Public Defender Training Program. I am aware of and approve of the time commitment as stated in the Program Information highlighted below.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Deadline for New Lawyer Program Public Defender Office Application is **May, 1st**.



The Southern Public Defender Training Center wishes to provide a quality development program for new public defenders across the southeastern United States. Because the SPDTC does not want cost to be prohibitive for public defender offices to send qualified applicants through this program, there is some financial assistance available up to \$4,750 or 95% of the total \$5,000 fee for the 3-year program.

Please check next to the option stating your preferences below:

Our office is happy to pay the full \$5,000 fee for our public defenders to receive this comprehensive training. We recognize the value it will bring to our office, and we will not be requiring any financial assistance.

Our office will be able to pay the \$5,000, but we will need to pay in installments. We can pay:
 \$2500 for Summer Institute (14 day initial training), a one time fee
 \$500 for each subsequent training (includes 5 additional trainings)

Our office is unable to afford the full \$5,000 fee, but we can pay up to \$_____. We request financial assistance for the balance to take advantage of this beneficial program.

If you are requesting assistance, please complete the following worksheet:

1. Amount of assistance requested: _____
2. Amount your office is contributing towards the training program (minimum of \$250): _____
3. Total Program Fees: \$5,000
4. Provide a brief statement of your need for financial assistance, including a description of your specific financial situation:

Signature _____ Date _____



Form for Inclusion in SPDTC Recruitment Materials



Recruitment Information Form

If you would like to benefit from our recruitment efforts, please complete the following Public Defender Information Form for Inclusion in our Recruitment Materials. This service is offered free of charge.

Public Defender Office _____

Public Defender Chief _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Website _____

Description of PD Office: (please submit brochures, overviews or other information you believe will be helpful in assisting a candidate learn more about your office)

Scope of Work

Salary Range _____

Benefits _____

Minimum Requirements: (i.e. Juris Doctorate Degree [JD] or its equivalent. Must be licensed by the Bar to practice law in the state of ____ within one year of hire etc.)

Application Requirements: (i.e. transcripts, resume, letters of reference, etc.)

Contact Information for submitting application:

Deadline for submitting application: _____

Additional information you would like to have prospective candidate know about your office (please feel free to include attachments (3 copies of each.)