



Metropolitan Public Defender

Portland, Oregon

Number of Public Defenders

100

Number of Gideon's Promise Defenders

10

Types of Cases Fellows Will Handle

Misdemeanors & Specialty courts

About our Office

We are the oldest and largest public defense office in Oregon. We are a non-profit office with three office locations. We are the primary provider in two counties: Multnomah (Portland) and Washington (Hillsboro/Beaverton). We provide representation in the following types of cases: adult matter ranging from misdemeanors to homicide; juvenile delinquency; juvenile dependency; civil commitment hearings; and specialty courts. We also have a grant-funded civil division that provides representation primarily in immigration defense, housing, eviction defense, collateral consequences/barrier reduction etc. We ensure ethical caseloads that allow our attorneys to provide effective representation for all clients. We work in teams as each client we have the privilege to represent has a lawyer, investigator and legal assistant working together on their behalf. We also have on staff case managers who assist clients when needed.

About the Area

Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, many beautiful parks and farmers markets, lively music scene; professional soccer teams and NBA team, 2 major rivers, 90 minutes to the Oregon coast, skiing, hiking, and Mount Hood.





About the Fellowship

(1) Our office are willing to fund 2 fellows. (2) We make decisions on a case-by-case basis. This includes office needs and the individual candidate. We also have an SPPE program in Oregon, which allows someone to obtain their license under supervision rather than passing the bar exam. We have 3 SPPE candidates at our office now.

Words from the Office

“Beyond the important facts explained above on our office, we have a strong collaborative culture at MPD. People are very open in answering questions and helping their colleagues. People get together outside of work. Portland and the surrounding area provides a high quality of life for people who live and work here. Gideon's Promise is important to us because we are dedicated and committed public defenders. We provide ethical and effective client-centered representation. The foundation of providing high quality representation is training. We focus on both foundational and supplemental training, which is in collaboration with Gideon's Promise and consistent with their training program. It is truly a privilege to represent our clients, and we know that training, mentorship and comradarie are critical for ensuring lawyers are confident and supported in their work.”

Carl Macpherson
Executive Director
Metropolitan Public Defender

