



Orleans Public Defenders

New Orleans, Louisiana

Number of Public Defenders

125

Number of Gideon's Promise Defenders

15+

Types of Cases Fellows Will Handle

Low Level Felonies & Misdemeanors

About our Office

Created in the wake of a complete criminal justice system failure following Hurricane Katrina, OPD reimaged representation for poor people in New Orleans. OPD brought forth a model and standard of representation never before seen and is now a benchmark for public defense in Louisiana.

We have made significant advances in juvenile representation and mitigation, bond advocacy, and mental health representation; laid the groundwork to reduce recidivism with diversion and alternatives to incarceration programs, spearheaded innovative programming such as Municipal Court at the Mission, Expungement Hour and the creation of our own Client Services Division which connects clients to critical services and programming and advocates for treatment, mental and medical health care, housing, job placement and more.

In the last decade-plus, OPD has established itself as a criminal justice reform leader – advocating for increased fairness, equity, and justice in our criminal justice system. We fight to end Louisiana's user-pay criminal justice system and protect the rights and well-being of our community.





About the Fellowship

(1) Our office are willing to fund 2 fellows; (2) Attorneys receive comprehensive in-office training throughout their first year in our office, and they quickly grow their advocacy skills through a fast-paced motions and trial practice. We pride ourselves on fostering an office culture of inclusivity, learning, and support for each other and for our clients; (3) Bilingual fluency preferred.

Words from the Office

“OPD has been a Gideon's Promise partner for many years. As a public defender office in the South, OPD deeply values the mission of Gideon's Promise and embodies the grit and zealous advocacy mirrored by the trainings offered through this program.”

Hannah Basalone
Interim Director of Hiring and Recruitment
Orleans Public Defenders

