

### ***Public Defender Position Description***

The position of **Public Defender** is open due to the tendered resignation of the present Public Defender, Quinlan Steiner, which will become effective upon appointment of his replacement. The Public Defender is responsible for providing legal representation to indigent persons charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes at the trial and appellate levels. The Public Defender also represents indigent parents whose parental rights are at issue in Child in Need of Aid cases, persons who are involuntarily committed to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, and juveniles who face delinquency charges. The Public Defender Agency handled approximately 23,000 new cases in FY 2018.

The Public Defender administers 13 offices throughout the state and prepares a yearly budget for the agency in coordination with the Department of Administration. Presently, the Public Defender supervises 99 attorneys and 67 support staff. The Public Defender testifies before the legislature on bills involving substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law and is appointed to serve on a number of commissions and committees involving criminal justice issues.

The Public Defender is appointed by the governor from among two or more persons nominated for that position by the Alaska Judicial Council and is subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature meeting in joint session. The Public Defender serves a term of four years and may be reappointed for subsequent terms by the governor, without re-nomination by the Council, with confirmation by the legislature. The Public Defender is subject to removal by the governor for good cause. A person is not eligible to be the Public Defender or an assistant public defender unless admitted to the practice of law in this state no later than 10 months following the commencement of the person's employment by the agency. See AS 18.85.010 - .180. The Public Defender is eligible for personal leave under the public employees' leave system, and all state benefits including state paid health and retirement benefits. The Public Defender is a Range 27 employee, whose salary may range from \$102,972 - \$211,860, depending on background and experience.