

SECOND ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general directions of the Public Defender, represents without charge or by order of the court with the consent of the defendant each indigent defendant who is charged with a crime as defined by Section 722(a) of the County Law. The Second Assistant Public Defender shall assist in and/or counsel and represent the defendant at every stage of the proceedings following his arrest and shall assist in the initiation and/or shall initiate such proceedings as in his judgment are necessary to protect the rights of the accused and may in his discretion prosecute any appeals if in his judgment the facts and circumstance warrant such. The Second Assistant Public Defender differs from lower level Assistant Public Defenders by assignment to higher-level crimes, such as felony's, and may supervise lower-rank attorneys. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Assists in and/or represents and counsels defendants at every stage of the proceedings following arrest;
Assists in and/or initiates such proceedings which are necessary to protect the rights of the accused;
Assists in and/or prepares any appeal which is warranted under existing circumstances;
Keeps records and makes reports.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of Criminal Law applicable to State and Federal Criminal Laws; thorough knowledge of criminal court procedures and of the rules of evidence; skill in the preparation of briefs; skill in presentation of a defense before a jury; special ability to analyze, appraise and apply legal principles, facts and precedent to legal problems; good command of language; initiative; tact; courtesy; good professional and administrative judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Eligibility for admission to practice as an Attorney and Counselor at Law before the courts of the State of New York at the time of application; admission to the Bar of the State of New York at the time of appointment.

RESIDENCY NOTE: Effective June 4, 2025, Local Law 4-25 allows qualified candidates residing in a New York State County that is contiguous to Chautauqua County, to be eligible for appointment to this title, provided however, that the appointed individual shall never be designated or authorized to act as the head of the department for any reason.

Revised 3/22/2019

Revised 6/4/2025 (Residency Note Added)

Revised 3/30/2026 (salary range allocation)