

**UNITED STATES PROBATION  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

**Vacancy Announcement  
10-WAW-04**

**October - November 2009**

**PROBATION OFFICER**

Court Personnel System Classification Level: CL 25 to 28

Developmental Range Salary \$39,636 to \$71,889

Full Performance Range Salary \$49,987 to \$93,462

Depending upon experience and qualifications

Additional promotional potential without further recruitment

Position open until filled; preference given to resumes received by November 13, 2009

The U.S. Probation Office for the Western District of Washington is currently accepting applications for a Probation Officer. There are five offices within the Western District of Washington (Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila, Everett, and Vancouver); the assignment to a duty station is at the discretion of the Chief Probation Officer. Frequent travel between offices may be required. More than one position may be filled from this recruitment.

**REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:**

The probation officer, as an investigative, sentencing and supervision professional, is responsible for providing meaningful assistance to the court in its deliberations and decisions concerning criminal offenders, and to ensure public safety through the monitoring and supervision of offenders placed under supervision by the court, the U.S. Parole Commission or military authorities.

- Conducts investigations and prepares reports for the court with recommendations for sentencing of individuals convicted of federal offenses. The preparation of these reports requires interviewing offenders and their families, investigating the offense, prior record and financial status of the offender, and contacting law enforcement agencies, attorneys, victims of the crimes, schools, churches, and civic organizations. The purpose of these activities is to ascertain the offender's background, to assess the probability of future criminal behavior and determine profit from the offense, restitution, and the offender's ability to pay fines and costs of prosecution, incarceration and cost of supervision. An integral part of this process is the interpretation and application of the U.S. Sentencing Commission guidelines and relevant case law.

- Following disclosure of the presentence report to the parties, analyzes any objections and determines appropriate course of action. Such actions include resolving disputed issues and/or presenting unresolved issues to the court for resolution.
- Presents presentence report and sentencing recommendations to the court. Responds to judicial officer's request for information and advice. Testifies in court as to the basis for factual findings and guideline applications. Serves as resource to the court to facilitate proper imposition of sentence.
- Supervises offenders to maximize adherence to imposed conditions, reduce risk to the community, and to provide correctional treatment.
- Maintains personal contact with offenders through office and community visits and by telephone. Investigates employment, sources of income, life style and associates to assess risk and compliance. Responsible for detection of substance abuse and through assessment and counseling implements the necessary treatment or violation proceedings of appropriate offenders. Refers offenders to appropriate outside agencies such as medical and drug treatment facilities, employment and training.
- Initiates contacts with, replies to and seeks information from organizations and persons such as the U.S. Parole Commission, Bureau of Prisons, and attorneys concerning offenders' behavior and conditions of supervision. Detects and investigates violations and implements appropriate alternatives and sanctions. Reports violations of the conditions of supervision to the appropriate authorities. Prepares reports, which may include application of U.S. Sentencing Commission revocation guidelines. Makes recommendations for disposition. Testifies at court or parole hearings.
- Conducts preliminary interviews and other investigations as required.
- Maintains a detailed written record of case activity.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a field of academic study, such as criminal justice, criminology, psychology, sociology, human relations, or business or public administration, which provides evidence of the capacity to understand and apply the legal requirements and human relations skills involved in the position.

Specialized Experience: Progressively responsible experience, gained after completion of a bachelor's degree, in such fields as probation, pretrial services, parole, corrections, criminal investigations, or work in substance/addiction treatment. Experience as a police, custodial, or security officer, other than any criminal investigative experience, is not creditable.

Educational Substitutions: Completion of one academic year (30 semester or 45 quarter hours), of graduate work in a field of study closely related to the position equates to one year of specialized experience. Completion of a master's degree in a field of study closely related to the position, or a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, equates to two years of specialized experience.

### **MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The duties of probation officers require the investigation and management of alleged criminal offenders or convicted offenders who present physical danger to officers and to the public. In the supervision, treatment, and control of these offenders, these duties require moderate to arduous physical exercise, including prolonged periods of walking and standing, physical dexterity and coordination necessary to operate a firearm, and use of self-defense tactics. On a daily basis, officers face unusual mental and physical stress because they are subject to danger and possible harm during frequent, direct contact with individuals who are suspected or convicted of committing federal offenses.

**Prior to appointment, the selectee considered for this position will undergo a medical examination and drug screening.** Upon successful completion of the medical examination and drug screening, the selectee may then be appointed provisionally, pending a favorable suitability determination by the court. In addition, as conditions of employment, incumbent will be subject to ongoing random drug screening, updated background investigations every five years and, as deemed necessary by management for reasonable cause, may be subject to subsequent fitness-for-duty evaluations.

The medical requirements and the essential job functions derived from the medical guidelines for probation officers, pretrial services officers and officer assistants are available for public review at <http://www.uscourts.gov/>. Pre-employment medical examinations for current Federal Probation and Pretrial Services officers and officer assistants are at the discretion of the Chief and may not be required.

Because officers must effectively deal with physical attacks and are subject to moderate to arduous physical exertion, applicants must be physically capable. Officers must possess, with or without corrective lenses, good distance vision in at least one eye and the ability to read normal size print. Normal hearing ability, with or without a hearing aid, is also required. In most instances, the amputation of an arm, hand, leg, or foot will not disqualify an applicant from appointment, although it may be necessary for the applicant to use a prosthesis to compensate for the amputation. Any severe health problems, however, such as physical defects, disease, and deformities that constitute employment hazards to the applicant or others, may disqualify an applicant. Examples of health problems that may be disqualifying are hernia (with or without truss), organic heart disease (whether or not compensated), severe varicose veins, serious deformities or disabilities of the extremities, mental or nervous disease, chronic constitutional disease, and marked speech abnormalities.

## **MAXIMUM ENTRY AGE**

First-time appointees to positions covered under law enforcement officer retirement provisions must not have reached their 37th birthday at the time of appointment. Applicants 37 or over who have previous law enforcement officer experience under the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System and who have either a subsequent break in service or intervening service in a non-law enforcement officer position may have their previous law enforcement officer experience subtracted from their age to determine whether they meet the maximum age requirement.

## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS:**

Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:

Human Resources (#10-WAW-04)  
U. S. District Court  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 2218  
Seattle, WA 98101

or via e-mail (Word, WordPerfect, or Acrobat .pdf format) to:

[seattle\\_personnel@wawd.uscourts.gov](mailto:seattle_personnel@wawd.uscourts.gov)

Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position. Applicants must be United States citizens or eligible to work in the United States. Applicants selected for interviews must travel at their own expense. Qualified applicants selected for interviews will be tested.

The United States District Court requires employees to follow a code of conduct which is available upon request. Reference checks with current and former employers will be conducted on top candidates. A background investigation with law enforcement agencies, including fingerprint and criminal record checks, will be conducted as a condition of employment. Any applicant selected for a position will be hired provisionally pending successful completion of the investigation. Unsatisfactory results may result in termination of employment.

The Federal Financial Management Reform Act requires direct deposit of federal wages.

The Court provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please notify human resources. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be made on a case by case basis.

The Court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, to withdraw the announcement, or to fill the position sooner than the closing date, any of which may occur without prior written or other notice. In the event that a position becomes vacant in a similar classification, within a reasonable time from the original announcement, management may elect to select a candidate from the applicants

who responded to the original announcement without posting the position. More than one position may be filled from this announcement.

**BENEFITS:**

Employees of the United States District Court are not covered by the Office of Personnel Management's civil service classification system or regulations and are considered "at will" employees. Judiciary employees are, however, entitled to the same benefits as other Federal employees. These include:

- 13 days' paid vacation for the first three years of full-time employment. Thereafter, 20 to 26 days/year dependent upon length of federal service;
- 13 days of paid sick leave per year (unlimited accumulation);
- 10 paid holidays per year;
- Subsidized medical coverage with pre-tax employee premiums;
- Group life insurance and long term care options;
- Flexible Benefits Program (pre-tax flexible spending for health care, dependent care and commuter/parking costs);
- Participation in the Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401K plan, with employer matching);
- Participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System;
- Eligibility for Long Term Disability Plan Group Rate;
- Creditable service time in other federal agencies or the military will be added to judiciary employment.