MICHIGAN HOLISTIC DEFENSE LAW FELLOWSHIP

2027 Fellowship Placement Site Guide *(please scroll down to review the guide in full)*

Placement Site	Site Address	Hours/week	Living Stipend (per hour)*	Housing Stipend**
Northeast Michigan Regional Defender Office	503 N. Second Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 (Second Location in Mio)	35	$25.00	Available
Calhoun County Public Defender Office	190 E. Michigan Ave. Battle Creek, MI 49014	32 - 40	$32.45	Available
Genesee County Public Defender Office	630. S. Saginaw Street Flint, Michigan 48502	32 - 40	$25.00	Available
Macomb County Public Defender Office	22 Market Street Mount Clemens, MI 48043	37.5	$26.00	Not available
Marquette County Public Defender Office	100 Coles Ave., Ste. #1 Marquette, MI 49855	32	$26.50	Available
Muskegon County Public Defender Office	155 E Apple Avenue Muskegon, MI 49442	32	$30.00	Available
Wexford-Missaukee County Public Defender Office	419 N. Lake Street Cadillac, MI 49601	32 - 40	$25.00	Available

**Living and housing stipends are taxable income.*

***Sites that offer a housing stipend typically do so on a reimbursement basis.*

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN REGIONAL DEFENDER OFFICE

Serving Alpena, Oscoda & Montmorency Counties

ALPENA OFFICE
503 N. Second Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-354-2856
Fax: 989-278-2921
defender@nemichdefender.org

MIO OFFICE
300 Morenci Ave, P.O. Box 393
Mio, MI 48647
Phone: 989-826-7225
Fax: 989-826-7911
oscodadefender@nemichdefender.org

Holistic Defense Fellowship

The Northeast Michigan Regional Defender Office invites 2L or 3L students to apply to spend the summer in beautiful Northern Michigan as a Holistic Defense Fellow.

Who we are:

Our office is a non-profit public defender organization established for the purpose of representing indigent adults charged with crimes within Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda Counties. We practice a holistic model of representation, integrated with local human service organizations to attend to the whole client, beyond the strict confines of a particular criminal charge.

Who we are looking for:

We are seeking law students entering their 2nd or 3rd year of law school who are interested in public service, indigent criminal defense, and holistic, client-centered representation. Students graduating during the 2026-2027 school year are also welcome to apply.

What you should expect:

Over the course of approximately 10 weeks, Fellows will have the opportunity to consult with clients, review discovery, research and draft motions and briefs, negotiate with prosecutors, and represent clients in court; all while working as a team with our social worker and investigator to provide the best possible representation for every client. Fellows are supervised by our seasoned attorneys and will have the opportunity to appear in multiple courts throughout our coverage area. They may even serve as 2nd chair at a jury trial if scheduling allows. Fellows will be based in our Alpena office with occasional travel to Montmorency and/or Oscoda Counties.

What we offer:

We offer an excellent hands-on learning experience to help prepare students for the practice of law. The exposure to our holistic, client-centered practice will leave a lasting impact (and hopefully ignite a passion for public defense work).

Fellows are paid $25 per hour, up to 35 hours per week. We offer up to $5,000 reimbursement for housing expenses (taxable income). Fellows are able to utilize student housing at the local community college.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	HOLISTIC DEFENSE LAW STUDENT FELLOW
Department:	Office of the Public Defender
Reports To:	Public Defender
Status:	Full-Time
FLSA Classification:	Exempt
Union/Association:	Non-Union
Work Hours:	32 to 40 hours per week with a minimum of 320 hours total
Pay Grade:	$32.45 Hourly plus $4,325 housing stipend
Last Revised Date:	September 2026

ABOUT THE OFFICE:

We are a county department dedicated to providing zealous, client centered advocacy within a holistic defense model. The office employs attorneys, investigators, and client advocates along with support staff. Our collaborative team approach addresses the legal and social support needs of our clients.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The position is designed to provide the student fellow an opportunity to gain exposure and experience with the work we do at the Public Defender's Office. Under the general direction of the Public Defender Training Director, the student fellow will participate in an onboarding and training process. Student Fellows will engage in meaningful assignments that involve direct client contact and appearances in court where appropriate. Important goals of the internship will be the opportunity to build relationships and gain significant exposure to the work we do within the broader legal and criminal justice system.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completion of at least the first full year of a law degree program offered by an American Bar Association approved law school.
- The ability to take initiative and work independently.
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a diverse group of individuals.
- Computer skills necessary to effectively utilize word processing, databases, spreadsheets, scanning and imaging, email, and internet.

- Professionalism and the ability to appropriately handle confidential information and sensitive situations.
- Possession of a valid driver's license.
- A strong interest in public service and a holistic approach to criminal defense.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Hybrid Work Classification: On-Site Required
Flexibility Classification: Flexible Schedule Eligible

- Normal office environment with occasional discomfort due to heat, dust, and noise.
- Availability to handle work problems, attend meetings, handle emergencies/crisis situations may occasionally be required.
- Occasional travel between County locations may be required. Out of County travel may be required for training purposes.

The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform essential duties of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This job description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by a person assigned to this job. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all job duties that may be performed by a person so classified. Furthermore, they do not establish a contract for employment and are subject to changes at the discretion of the employer.

GENESEE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

MICHIGAN HOLISTIC DEFENSE FELLOWSHIP: LAW FELLOW POSITION

About the Office:

The Office of the Public Defender, under the direction of the Chief Public Defender, is responsible for providing constitutionally guaranteed, quality legal representation to all adults charged with crimes in Genesee County who cannot afford an attorney. The Chief Public Defender oversees a hybrid delivery system consisting of staff attorneys working in-house, a felony roster of private attorneys, and a separate roster of attorneys handling misdemeanors and arraignments in district court. The Office of the Public Defender also employs an interdisciplinary defense support team consisting of an investigator, a mitigation specialist, paralegals, and administrative staff.

Location:

Fellows will be expected to work in-person at the Office of the Public Defender located in the McCree Building, at 630 S. Saginaw Street in Flint, Michigan. Fellows will also be required to appear in the 67th District Court, 7th Circuit Court, Genesee County Jail, and the Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center. Remote work will be available in limited circumstances.

Duration, Compensation, and Housing:

Fellows are required to perform a minimum of 320 hours of fieldwork over the course of at least 10 weeks. Fellows will be paid at an hourly rate of $25. Housing options may be available based on eligibility.

Position Summary and Qualifications:

See attached Job Description.

PUBLIC DEFENDER LAW STUDENT HOLISTIC DEFENSE FELLOWSHIP

POSITION CLASS:
No Benefit

HIRING AUTHORITY:
Public Defender

JOB SUMMARY:
Performs a variety of legal tasks in District and Circuit Courts as an intern in the Michigan Holistic Defense Fellowship, which includes legal research and writing, negotiations and court appearances; works collaboratively with mitigation specialists, social work interns and attorneys to advocate for clients on assignments that require interdisciplinary thinking and holistic representation.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

- Reviews charging documents, police reports and other discovery as provided by the prosecution.
- Conducts, or assists staff in conducting, detailed client interviews.
- Works closely with social service workers to identify and address client needs.
- Conducts interviews with appropriate parties as required.
- Engages in negotiation with opposing counsel.
- Performs legal research and prepares briefs or recommendations to supervisors.
- Drafts motions and other pleadings.
- Appears on the record pursuant to court rules.
- Performs related work as required.

The above statement of Essential Job Duties and Functions is intended to be sufficient to identify the class and be illustrative of the many duties that may be assigned. It should not be interpreted to describe all the duties an employee assigned to this class may be required to perform.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge of modern principles and practices of law.
- Knowledge and appreciation for the philosophy of holistic indigent defense.
- Ability to analyze legal problems and present findings in an orderly manner.
- Ability to become proficient in the practice of law.
- Ability to communicate on a highly effective basis both orally and in writing.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality with highly sensitive information.
- Ability and desire to work with people of all social strata and the capacity to do so with tolerance, sympathy and objectivity.
- Ability to appreciate the desires, needs and rights of others.
- Competency in various computer programs.
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment.
- Ability to work independently, collaboratively and respectfully in a complex, multicultural work environment that values diversity, equity and inclusion.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be enrolled in a law degree program at an accredited university **-AND-** be in good academic standing **-AND-** must have completed at least two (2) academic terms of the law degree program.

  OR

  Achieved a Juris Doctor degree with a graduation date of less than one year prior to the last day of the fellowship

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Interns in the Michigan Holistic Defense Fellowship are required to perform a minimum of 320 hours of fieldwork over the course of ten (10) weeks. Interns are required to document their fieldwork through signed, detailed, contemporaneous time logs.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be able to perform Essential Job Duties and Functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

Anita Galajda
Human Resources Director

Established: September 10, 2024

MACOMB COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Erin Freers-Cole
Macomb County Public Defender

Macomb County Holistic Fellowship

Location:

Students will generally be working in person at the Macomb County Office of Public Defender located at 22 Market St., Mt. Clemens, MI and may spend a portion of their day at the 16th Circuit Court, visiting at the Macomb County Jail, or in one of the 10 different District Courts located throughout Macomb County. Due to the intensive interpersonal nature of this work and supervision requirements, remote work is rare.

About the Macomb County Public Defender's Office

The Macomb County Office of Public Defender represents indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses in Macomb County. Attorneys at the Office of Public Defender currently handle over half of the indigent defense capital cases (punishable by up to life in prison), and a smaller percentage of other felony and misdemeanor cases. The Macomb County Office of Public Defender manages a list of private Roster Attorneys who are assigned to the remainder of the indigent criminal defense cases. The Office of Public Defender manages the assignment of attorneys in felony cases. Assignments are also made for indigent defense misdemeanors in three managed District Courts. (Romeo, New Baltimore, and Shelby Township). Attorneys at the Macomb County Public Defender work in a highly collaborative environment and are assisted by a social worker, experts, and investigators. Attorneys take a holistic approach, seeking to protect constitutional rights, provide a vigorous defense, and obtain an outcome which is in the best interest of their clients.

Work a Holistic Fellow May Do

Students will work directly with clients, alongside supervising attorneys and a social worker. A Holistic Fellow will identify client needs and goals to address client issues. Students experience will differ. Efforts will be made to gain experience participating in various aspects of client representation. Experiences can include: investigation; client interviews; legal research; considering programming options; drafting documents; court appearances; and in some cases, advocacy in Court.

Preferred Qualifications and Requirements

Students should have an interest in public defense and be interested in developing a holistic understanding of the legal system and its impact on clients.
Required: Valid Driver's License; vehicle with insurance; undergraduate degree and at least two semesters of law school.

Compensation

Current rate of Pay is approximately $26.00* per hour (37 ½ hours/week), for a minimum of 10 weeks (320 hours). A housing stipend is not available.

**This position is pending approval by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, Human Resources and Finance Department. Information is subject to change depending on approval. Background checks are required by the County.*

100 Coles Dr., Ste. #1
Marquette, MI 49855

906.226.4370 (T)
906.232.1024 (F)

www.mqtpubdef.org

Attorneys

Patrick J. Crowley
Chief Public Defender

Dr. Amber L. Libby
Senior Assistant Public Defender

Ian I. Tullock
Senior Assistant Public Defender

Wesley E. Somogy
Senior Assistant Public Defender

Jonathan C. Ballew
Assistant Public Defender

Samantha G. Lamrock
Assistant Public Defender

Stephen J. Wood
Assistant Public Defender

T.K. A. Khan
Assistant Public Defender

Marquette County Holistic Defense Fellowship

Location

Marquette County is located on the southern shore of Lake Superior and is the most populous county in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Fellows will work at the Marquette County Office of the Public Defender located at 100 Coles Dr. Ste. #1, Marquette, Michigan. Fellows will spend a portion of their day at the Marquette County Courthouse located at 234 W. Baraga Avenue in Marquette. Due to the interpersonal nature of this work and supervision requirements, remote work opportunities are rare.

About the Marquette County Public Defender's Office

The Marquette County Office of Public Defender represents indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses in Marquette County. The Office of the Public Defender provides holistic legal representation services for approximately 94% of all criminal offenses committed in Marquette County. These offenses range from minor misdemeanor offenses to capital cases (punishable by a life sentence).

A cornerstone of holistic defense is connecting indigent clients impacted by the social determinants of poverty and criminality with services that support their wellbeing and minimize future interactions with the criminal legal system. To support this goal, the Office includes a fulltime mitigation team, an investigator, and a paralegal who work closely with the attorneys to coordinate case strategy and client management. The Office of the Public Defender is a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary environment, and fellows are supported through daily mentorship opportunities with staff.

Law Fellow Responsibilities

Fellows will work directly with clients under the guidance of a supervising attorney. Responsibilities may include but are not limited to the completion of arraignments, supporting investigations, conducting client interviews and legal research, drafting documents, and advocating for clients in District Court (limited opportunities to advocate in Circuit Court may be available). Law Fellows may have the opportunity to sit second chair during a trial depending on case circumstances.

Qualifications

Fellows must have completed at least two semesters at an accredited law school prior to the first day of this fellowship, which begins during the last week of May 2027. Recent law school graduates are welcome to apply but must have a graduation date of less than one year from the last day of the fellowship (July 30th, 2027) to qualify under the restrictions set by the Student Practice License.

Marquette County lacks sufficient public transportation infrastructure to support an individual in this position without reliable and daily access to a personal vehicle. Fellows are required to have a valid driver's license and their own vehicle to commute between the office and courthouse.

Individuals interested in this fellowship should have a basic understanding of the criminal legal system and a passion for providing high-quality defense services to indigent clients.

Pay and Hours

Law fellows are expected to work Monday – Thursdays with the exception of summer holidays recognized by Marquette County (Memorial Day and Fourth of July). It is the responsibility of each fellow to ensure that they reach the minimum hour requirement of 320 hours over the course of the Fellowship. The rate of pay is approximately $26.50 per hour (32 hours per week) for 10 weeks. A housing stipend of up to $12,000 is available on a reimbursement-style basis, but please note that the housing stipend is treated as taxable income.

Funding for this position is pending approval by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. Information is subject to change.



🏛 Holistic Defense Student Fellowship Program

Muskegon County Public Defender's Office
📍 155 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon, Michigan 49442
📞 **Main Phone:** 231-724-6585 | 📠 **Fax:** 231-724-6643

🌟 Program Overview

We offer law students a hands-on learning experience in criminal defense. You will work with client interaction, legal research, and courtroom advocacy. Our student fellows work alongside dedicated, highly skilled attorneys with diverse backgrounds. Together, we bring strength and unique perspectives to public defense every day.

- **Position Title:** Holistic Defense Law Fellow
- **Positions Available:** 1
- **Department:** Muskegon County Public Defender's Office
- **Employment Type:** Temporary, full-time (10 weeks)
- **Compensation:** $30.00 per hour
- **Work Hours:** Approximately 32 hours/week
- **Housing Stipend:** Yes

🕮 About Our Office

The Muskegon County Public Defender's Office opened in 2014. We use a **Holistic Defense** model. This means our lawyers work closely with social workers to support both the legal and personal needs of our clients. Today, Director Amy Campanelli leads our team in protecting clients' rights and fighting for justice in criminal and family courts.

Our Mission

To protect the rights, liberty, and dignity of each person entrusted to our care by providing the finest client-centered holistic representation.

Our Vision

To improve the lives of our clients and communities through high-quality legal defense and advocacy that extends beyond the courtroom, creating pathways for clients to rebuild their lives.

Our Core Values

- **Client-Centered:** We put our clients first.
- **Tenacious Advocacy:** We fight hard for justice.
- **United in our Mission:** We work together for a common goal.
- **Culture of Excellence:** We hold ourselves to high standards.
- **Outstanding Work Product:** We deliver top-quality legal work.
- **Excel at Teamwork:** We support and collaborate with one another.

🗀 Roles and Responsibilities

As a student fellow, you will work in a professional legal office and receive excellent mentorship from experienced supervisors. Your duties will include:

- Conducting client intake interviews.
- Assisting with pre-trials, trials, jury selection, and sentencing hearings.
- Attending probation violation and bond reduction hearings.
- Participating in case investigations and strategy sessions.
- Organizing and reviewing legal case files.
- Conducting client visits at homes and local jail facilities.

🎓 Qualifications

- Completion of at least the first year of a law degree program offered by an American Bar Association approved law school.
- Must show a strong interest in public defense, criminal law, or family court.
- Must have excellent legal research and writing skills.
- Must successfully pass a physical exam.

📝 Local Area Highlights

Muskegon is a vibrant city located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. It is a fantastic place to live and work!

- **Beaches and Water Sports:** Pere Marquette Beach features expansive quartz sand and beautiful sunsets. It is a popular spot for windsurfing, beach volleyball, and hiking.
- **Biking Trails:** The Muskegon Lakeshore Bike Trail connects to other paths, allowing you to ride all the way to Hart, Michigan, completely on dedicated bike trails.
- **State Parks:** Muskegon State Park features a Winter Sports Complex with a luge track, while P.J. Hoffmaster State Park offers beautiful sand dunes and campgrounds.
- **Amusement Parks:** Michigan’s Adventure, the largest amusement park in the state, is located just a few miles north and features roller coasters and a full water park.

WEXFORD MISSAUKEE PUBLIC DEFENDERS

419 North Lake Street, Cadillac, MI 49601

phone (231) 444-0480 fax (231) 444-6518

toll free (844) 231-5898

defender@wexfordcounty.org

Opportunity to live, work, and explore Northern Michigan during your fellowship with the Wexford Missaukee Public Defender's Office

Holistic Defense Student Fellowship Program

This program is specifically designed for law students and recent law graduates seeking practical experience in criminal defense within a holistic legal framework. It offers a comprehensive opportunity to develop skills in legal advocacy, client engagement, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Program Overview

Position Title: Holistic Defense Law Fellow (Two Positions Available)

Department: Wexford Missaukee Public Defender's Office

Employment Type: Temporary, full-time position lasting ten weeks

Compensation: $25 per hour, with a maximum of 40 hours per week, totaling approximately $10,000

Housing Stipend: Up to $15,000, based on Airbnb or VRBO rental costs for a three-month period

About the Office

The Wexford Missaukee Public Defender's Office is dedicated to protecting the Sixth Amendment rights of indigent defendants by providing effective legal representation. Serving Wexford and Missaukee Counties from offices in Cadillac and Lake City, the office employs a holistic approach that integrates legal professionals, investigators, social workers, and support staff to deliver comprehensive, client-centered advocacy. This multidisciplinary strategy aims to address the complex needs of clients and promote justice through collaborative efforts.

WEXFORD MISSAUKEE PUBLIC DEFENDERS

419 North Lake Street, Cadillac, MI 49601
phone (231) 444-0480 fax (231) 444-6518
toll free (844) 231-5898
defender@wexfordcounty.org

Role and Responsibilities

As a Law Fellow, you will work closely with experienced attorneys and other professionals to gain hands-on experience in criminal defense. Your responsibilities will include:

- Participating in arraignments, hearings, and courtroom trials
- Conducting client interviews, legal research, and investigations
- Drafting motions, legal briefs, and other court documents
- Collaborating with investigators, social workers, and attorneys to develop case strategies
- Building professional relationships with court personnel, law enforcement, prosecutors, and probation officers
- Engaging directly with clients and stakeholders to promote holistic advocacy and justice

Qualifications

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school, or recent graduates with a graduation date no earlier than August 1, 2025
- Strong interest in public defense and holistic legal practices
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills
- Ability to work collaboratively across disciplines and independently when necessary
- Proficiency in legal research, drafting, and digital legal tools

Training and Mentorship Opportunities

Fellows will receive personalized mentorship from senior attorneys, collaborate with social workers and investigators, and gain exposure to multidisciplinary strategies within the criminal justice system. This training aims to enhance your legal skills and deepen your understanding of holistic defense practices.

WEXFORD MISSAUKEE PUBLIC DEFENDERS

419 North Lake Street, Cadillac, MI 49601
phone (231) 444-0480 fax (231) 444-6518
toll free (844) 231-5898
defender@wexfordcounty.org

Location and Practical Experience

Fellows will reside and work in Cadillac, Michigan, with opportunities to participate in legal activities across Wexford and Missaukee Counties. Your experience will include:

- Office work and case preparation in Cadillac and Lake City
- Regular court appearances in local courts
- Direct client engagement, trial preparation, and courtroom advocacy

Local Area Highlights

Northern Michigan offers an exceptional quality of life, making your fellowship both professionally rewarding and personally enriching. Highlights include:

- Outdoor recreation opportunities such as lakes, forests, hiking, biking, boating, and fishing
- Four-season activities including summer festivals, fall foliage tours, winter skiing, and year-round access to the Manistee National Forest
- Community and cultural experiences in small-town settings, with local dining, markets, and community events
- Proximity to attractions like Traverse City, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and Lake Michigan
- Affordable living supported by a housing stipend of up to $15,000, ensuring comfortable accommodations during your stay

Key Program Highlights

- Two fellowship positions available for 2027

- Competitive compensation: approximately $25 per hour plus a housing stipend of up to $15,000

- Intensive training within a supportive, team-oriented environment

- Exposure to all facets of the criminal justice system through collaborative work

- Opportunity to live, work, and explore Northern Michigan during your fellowship