



PARTNER OFFICE PROFILE

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER

EAST BATON ROUGE, LA



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OF GIDEON'S
PROMISE LAWYERS
IN YOUR OFFICE?

10

TYPES OF CASES THE FELLOW(S) WILL HANDLE?

Any new public defender in our office begins handling misdemeanors, and under the supervision of their attorney team (section chief/first felony assistant) can expect to progress to low level felonies within 6 months of their start date.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR OFFICE

OPDBR is the largest jurisdiction in Louisiana. Last year our office handled over 15,000 cases in East Baton Rouge parish. We are the capitol of Louisiana and our office, as a result, is regularly involved in policy and legislative initiatives pushing for criminal justice reform in our state. Our office commits to sending all new public defender hires through core. It is our goal to continue to work to build a client centered office that is pushing the envelope both in the courtroom and the community. Our office is very fortunate to have two law schools within 15 minutes of our office. We have law clerks every semester (summer included) who are paired with public defenders (new and experienced) to work as a team. There are eight sections of criminal court in Baton Rouge. Each section is covered by a specific team of attorneys with varying levels of experience: Section Chief, First Felony Assistant, Transitioning Felony/Misdemeanor Assistant, and a new Misdemeanor Assistant. Fellows in our office begin as Misdemeanor Assistants in a section supported by those other attorneys filling the above listed roles. The goal of OPDBR is to have new lawyers work with and train underneath more experienced attorneys to ensure that the fellow gains experience while also being appropriately supported.

OF PUBLIC
DEFENDERS IN YOUR
OFFICE?

36

*Full time staff attorneys

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DOWNTOWN EAST BATON ROUGE



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

101 MARIETTA ST. NW, SUITE 250 ATLANTA, GA 30303



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GIDEON'S PROMISE



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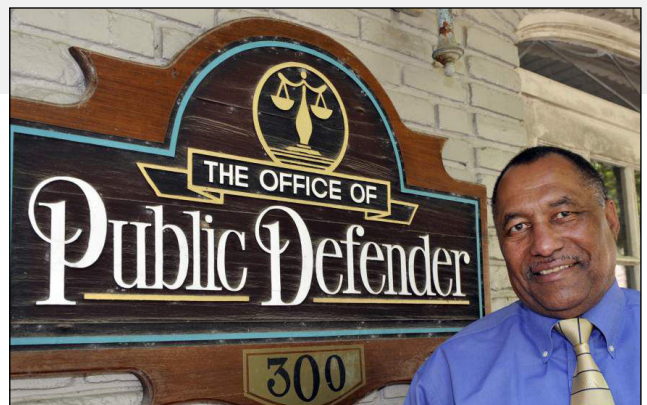
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WORDS FROM THE CHIEF:

"Gideon's Promise has created a foundation upon which our lawyers, both new and experienced, are able to go into courtrooms in Baton Rouge every week and fight for the expressed interests of their clients. There has never been a more exciting time to be a public defender in Louisiana than now. Sweeping criminal justice reform changes in the last 2 years, which were largely driven by attorneys in offices like ours, to amend Louisiana's archaic and punitive statutory pretrial and sentencing structures have seen real and continued success. Just this past year, Louisiana voted to eliminate its racist and unconstitutional and non-unanimous jury verdict system. The work of public defenders in our office and Louisiana has shown that if you take a group of talented and dedicated people fighting for a common goal, there is nothing that can't be accomplished. Our ability to unify in effecting better client-centered representation in public defense is due in large part our office's internalization of the tenets taught by Gideon's Promise. The fight in Baton Rouge and in Louisiana is far from over. While we have a momentum in our courtrooms spurred on by the teams of public defenders in there every day working on behalf of clients, there is much work left to be done in the fight to reform money bail practices, extended pretrial detention, and plea over trial system that is the result of habitual offender enforcement. We are looking for someone who interested in living and working in the South for historically under-resourced office. Public defense in Louisiana has been under attack for decades due to insufficient resources and foundation built on user-pay, but in the last 5 years, we have been able to build an office that is now pushing back in a multitude of areas. For the first time in our jurisdiction's history, our office will begin litigating caseload limits this June. Six months ago, our office implemented a full-time bail unit with a bond attorney, social worker, and client advocate. We are an office that is in transition and we want dedicated people who are interested in helping push to make Baton Rouge a just and fair city for all of its men, women, and children charged with a crime and too poor to afford counsel. If you have the talent, drive, and commitment to being a client-centered advocate for those without a voice in a system that up until 1 year ago was the mass-incarceration capital of the world, then we would welcome you to our team and support you in that fight."

MICHAEL A. MITCHELL
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER,
EAST BATON ROUGE



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