



PARTNER OFFICE PROFILE

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

EL PASO, TX

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of Gideon's Promise lawyers are in your office?

24

Do you have to have any specific skills that are required in your office?

Spanish language skills are strongly desired, but not required.

What are the different units in your public defender office?

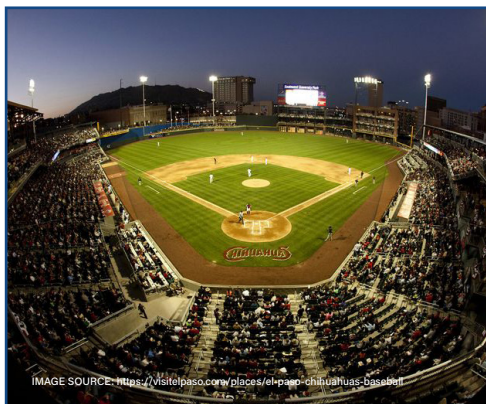
Criminal - Adult Felony, Adult Misdemeanor, Mental Health Unit, Capital Murder, Appeals, Juvenile Trial level cases and Appeals; Child Support; Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. We have in house Investigative, Social Work and Mitigation Units.

Are resources, such as availability of experts and investigative support, accessible to staff attorneys?

We have staff investigators, social workers, and a mitigation specialist who support our attorneys in case preparation, investigation, connecting clients and families with community services, and preparation of punishment/mitigation cases. We have a budget within the office for hiring experts both as consulting and testifying on cases as necessary.

Does your public defender office have any formal community partnerships or special projects? If so, please describe the partnership, program, or project.

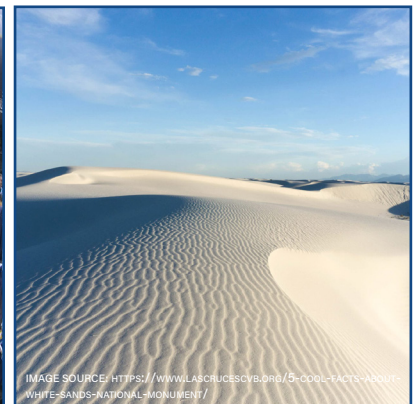
We work closely with other criminal justice stakeholders to address systemic concerns and address challenges facing our clients. Our Mental Health Unit Division Chief chairs the County's Mental Health Diversion Committee. We are also part of the stakeholder team which has worked to update the County's post arrest/pre-filing magistration system and the development and ongoing assessment of the county's Pretrial Risk Assessment



CHIHUAHUAS GAME



EL PASO LOCOMOTIVES



WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

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



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EL PASO, TX

Popular attractions for attorneys to visit while in the city:

Our AAA baseball team, the Chihuahuas, El Paso Locomotives Professional Soccer Team, hiking the Hueco Mountains, our historic Mission Trail, shopping downtown El Paso and the El Paso Outlet Mall, Top Golf, walking trails, Chamazal National Monument, White Sands National Monument, Cincinnati Entertainment District, and other attractions.

Is there anything that distinguishes the clients in your jurisdiction?

El Paso County is located on the Texas/New Mexico/Mexico Border. We are the center of two nations and three states. Our community is over 80% Hispanic, and over 60% of our residents speak a language other than English in the home (the majority is Spanish). El Paso's unique position as a truly border community, sees our population swell by several hundred thousand daily with people who cross the border to work, as well as for business, school, and tourism, and even just to shop.

What makes practicing in your jurisdiction uniquely challenging?

Prosecutors who are given little discretion on cases and who seek harsh sentences. Staying current on Padilla (Immigration and other collateral consequences) is also a challenge.

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