



PARTNER OFFICE PROFILE

NASHVILLE DEFENDERS

NASHVILLE, TN

ONLINE MEDIA:

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of Gideon's Promise lawyers in your office?

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Do you have any specific skills required for your office?

People with ties to the Nashville area are preferred.

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

Yes. We have fact investigators on staff. We have the ability to apply for funds from the state to hire expert witnesses.

What makes practicing in your jurisdiction uniquely challenging? (i.e. harsh drug laws, etc.)

Nashville's cash bail scheme is almost identical to that of Harris County, TX. The Nashville Defenders has been and will continue to be involved in the fight to end the unconstitutional cash bail practices of our country.

Popular attractions for attorneys to visit while in the city:

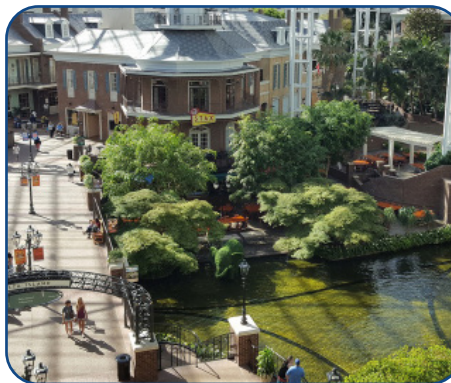
Opryland, the Ryman and the Honky Tonks on Broadway. Also, our food scene is pretty fantastic!

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

In addition to our New Americans Project and our Education Rights Project, we have the Defend Nashville Initiative, which is a community outreach program designed to better connect us with our client communities.



Downtown Nashville



Opryland Resort & Convention Center



The Parthenon

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



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What are the different units in your public defender office?

Adult Team: This team of approximately 40 attorneys is split into several divisions, including the General Sessions Division (handling mostly misdemeanor cases from arrest to preliminary hearing or bench trial in Davidson County's General Sessions Court).

Appellate Division: Handles our clients' direct appeals following jury verdict and sentencing in the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Criminal Court Division: They handle mostly felony cases from arrest to jury trial in Davidson's County's Criminal Court.

Education Rights Project: This team is currently 2 attorneys and 1 social worker that provides advocacy and legal representation to Nashville's students with disabilities to help them succeed in school and stay out of the juvenile justice system. Students who receive our services attend school more regularly, get better grades, have fewer suspension days, and are referred to court less often than prior to involvement with our program. We are often able to use the results of our education advocacy to get better outcomes for children involved in juvenile court cases.

Investigator Team: This team of investigators conducts all fact investigation and some mitigation investigation.

Juvenile Team: This team is currently 3 attorneys, 3 non-attorneys and 1 social worker that handles juvenile delinquency proceedings and Guardian Ad Litem matters in Davidson County's Juvenile Court.

New Americans Project: Spearheaded by our immigration specialist attorney, the project seeks to inform our non-citizen clients about all potential consequences and then try to resolve the case in a way that minimizes those consequences. The project is also engaged in community outreach and training for members of the defense community.

Social Services Team: This team of social workers and client advocates connects our clients to necessary social services through release planning, supports clients facing serious felony charges, and creates social histories and does some major case mitigation work.

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