PARTNER OFFICE PROFILE

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

BIRMINGHAM, AL

WWW.JEFFCODEFENDER.ORG

# of Gideon's Promise lawyers are in your office? 4
# of Public Defenders in your office? 43

What are the different units in your public defender office?
We have a special crimes unit that handles more serious felonies including capitals. We do handle misdemeanors and specialty courts such as mental health and veterans. We have social workers and investigators.

Does your public defender office have any formal community partnerships or special projects? If so, please describe the partnership, program, or project.
Our office is beginning to forge partnerships within the community. We have just received a two-year grant with the Utrust communications via the SPLC to provide text updates to our clients.

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

Is there anything that distinguishes the clients in your jurisdiction?
Birmingham is a majority-minority community.

What makes practicing in your jurisdiction uniquely challenging? (i.e. harsh drug laws, etc.)
Alabama is an extremely conservative state with an extremely politicized legislature. The district attorney frequently seeks the death penalty in capital murders, and frequently charges homicides as capitals.

Popular attractions for attorneys to visit while in the state:
Barons’ games, the Vulcan statue, Red Mountain Park and the University of Alabama is only 50 minutes.

What types of cases do you anticipate the fellows will handle?
Lower-level felonies and misdemeanors