



*The Public Defender's Office
safeguards the fundamental rights
of all residents in Ventura County
by providing the finest legal
representation to indigent people.*

Ventura County

Invites your application for the position of
Public Defender
Base Salary: \$254,327 per Year



Filing Period: Open through Friday, May 12, 2017



Ventura County

From rolling hills to sweeping ocean views, Ventura County is located on the "Gold Coast," approximately 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Santa Barbara. The near perfect climate (Mediterranean) with an average annual temperature of 74.2 degrees and a wonderful quality of life are two of the many reasons the 802,983 residents choose to call Ventura "home." Ventura has a diverse economic base from tourism to high-tech enterprises in beautifully planned communities, making the region one of the safest and fastest growing in Southern California.

The County's 1,873 square miles include 43 miles of beautiful coastline. The County of Ventura is home to the following cities and points of interest: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura as well as national protected areas such as parts of the Angeles National

Forest, Channel Islands National Park, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The County of Ventura offers numerous year-round activities ranging from walking on the beach to enjoying a concert in a park, or sailing to the Channel Islands, or hiking in the Los Padres National Forest. Ventura County is home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, the San Buenaventura Mission, art galleries, and a state-of-the-art Civic Arts Plaza.

Ventura County has a strong economic base that includes major industries such as biotechnology, agriculture, advanced technologies, oil production, military testing and development, and tourism. Home to two universities (California State University Channel Islands and California Lutheran University), and three Community Colleges (Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura), multiple university extensions, institutes, and adult schools; the County enjoys a strong structure for workforce development.



Public Defender

County Government and the Public Defender's Office

The County of Ventura is a general law county, governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, elected at-large. The Supervisors appoint a County Executive Officer to oversee the day-to-day operations, as well as to advise, assist and act as an agent for the Board of Supervisors in all matters under the Board's jurisdiction. County operations have an operating budget of approximately \$2.3 billion with a staffing allocation of 8,900.

The Public Defender's Office

The Ventura County Public Defender's Office was created in 1968. The Office is made up of 107 full time employees including 59 attorneys and section chiefs, investigators, paralegals and support staff. We provide legal representation for over 25,000 cases annually with an annual operating budget of approximately \$15.5 million.

Our Mission

We are a voice for the poor. We safeguard the fundamental rights of all residents in the county by providing the finest legal representation to indigent people. For those unable to afford a private lawyer, we provide representation in criminal, juvenile, mental health, and probate. Our attorneys and staff are highly trained in these areas and are highly committed to serve our community.

About the Position

Appointed by, and under administrative direction of, the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer, plans, organizes and directs operations and programs that provide legal counsel and representation to eligible persons as defined in Section 27706 of the Government Code, Section 987 of the Penal Code, Sections 1470 and 1471 of the Probate Code, Sections 317, 634 and 6500 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and other statutory provisions governing the Public Defender.



The position is responsible for the operation of the Public Defender's Office and represents the County's interests.

The ideal candidate will be a politically astute leader and manager with 10 or more years of criminal defense trial experience and a work history that includes excellent scope and depth of administrative, organizational, management, supervisory, and budgeting experience. The successful candidate will also be highly-motivated and possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills and a passion for providing the highest quality of services.

Candidates must be graduates from an accredited law school, possess ten (10) or more years of comprehensive intensive trial experience, along with professional experience involving administrative and organizational responsibility. Candidates must also have and be a member in good standing with the State Bar of California and possess and maintain a valid California driver license.

The Public Defender serves in at-will status. The incumbent will receive Management benefits at the MBA level and is exempt from overtime compensation.



Compensation and Benefits

Current Annual Base Salary:

\$254,327.12

The County offers an attractive compensation and benefits package. In addition to the above base salary, other "cash-like" benefits include a 3% match on your 401k contributions (up to a maximum of \$4,866 annually), the ability to "cash in" or redeem up to 100 hours of Executive Annual Leave (up to a maximum of \$7,798 per year), and participation in the County's defined benefit retirement plan.

RETIREMENT/SOCIAL SECURITY: Both the County and you contribute to the County's Retirement Plan, which immediately vests in your Ventura County Employees Retirement Association (VCERA) account. Defined retirement benefits vest after 5 years of service. Compensation for retirement purposes includes all cash compensation excluding overtime, and including Flexible Benefits contribution. The County and you also each contribute to Social Security.

HEALTH PLANS: Medical, Dental, and Vision plans for you and your dependents. A flexible credit allowance of up to \$9,022 annually to use towards your plan elections.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS: Increase your spending power by reimbursing you with pre-taxed dollars for IRS approved dependent care and health care expenses.

EXECUTIVE ANNUAL LEAVE: 248 hours earned per year, increasing to 288 hours after 5 years of service, to 328 hours after 10 years of service, and to 368 hours after 15 years of service.

HOLIDAYS

10 paid days per year plus a scheduled floating holiday.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION

You may elect to contribute to one or both of the County's deferred compensation plans (established under Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(k) and 457). If you participate in the County sponsored 401(k) plan, the County will match a part of your contribution up to 3% of your salary, on a pay period basis. You must be regularly scheduled to work 40 hours or more each pay period to participate in the 401(k) plan. These plans enable you to build long-term savings while deferring current federal and state income taxes. In addition to pre-tax contributions, you may choose to make after-tax contributions through the Roth option available in the 457 plan. Incumbents are also entitled to County-paid membership in professional organizations related to their position.

Other benefits include: Disability Plans, Employee Assistance Program, Life Insurance, Tuition Reimbursement, Benefit Reimbursement Program and a Wellness Program.

The Process

To apply for this exceptional career opportunity, please do one of the following:

- E-mail your current resume to: jose.bernard@ventura.org.
- Mail a hard copy of your current resume to José Bernard, County of Ventura Human Resources; 800 South Victoria Avenue, L-1970; Ventura CA 93009.
- Submit an on-line application at www.ventura.org/jobs and/or attach your current resume.

Application material will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Friday, May 12, 2017.

