

## Sample Public Defense Interview Questions

- What does being a Public Defender mean to you?
- Describe someone you may have worked with or observed who you didn't think was a good Public Defender, and why.
- What life experiences have you had that helped you prepare for effective public defense?
- How do you measure success as a Public Defender?
- What is your approach with regards to client phone calls and voice mail messages?
- Describe your office infrastructure. What kind of office set-up do you have for confidential client meetings?
- Describe your approach to working with investigators.
- Describe how you would utilize social workers in your practice.
- Describe experience you've had working with expert witnesses.
- When did you argue your last suppression motion? Briefly describe.
- When was your last jury trial? Briefly describe. How many trials have you had in your career? What were the charges?
- How do you approach working with clients who have mental health issues?
- How do you handle communication with clients who do not speak/read/write in English?
- What steps do you take to provide immigration advice to non-citizen clients?
- What is your philosophy on whether or not to withdraw on a case?
- What is a typical caseload for you? How do you keep track of your caseload?
- Describe a high pressure situation you have been in recently. How did you cope?
- How do you prepare for an absence and then catch up on accumulated work after a vacation or conference?
- How does your office train and supervise attorneys? What kind of training or mentorship is most valuable to newly practicing attorneys?
- What CLEs have you attended within the past year?
- Are you a member of any professional organizations or associations?
- Please describe your experience in tracking data such as caseload size, case outcomes, or other data you report to managers.