CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

$143,085.34 - $182,716.93

Salary dependent upon the experience of the successful candidate.

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by January 17, 2020 at jobs.epcounty.com
THE COUNTY

When Spanish Conquistadors rode along the banks of the Rio Grande in 1598, they discovered a diamond amid the Chihuahuan desert. Fusing Native American, Spanish, Mexican and the American Cowboy traditions into one cohesive whole, El Paso has been luring visitors with its mystery and promise for hundreds of years. In 2013, Movoto rated El Paso as the third best city in which to raise a family. El Paso is the largest United States city on the Mexican border, the 6th largest city in Texas and the 1st safest large city in the U.S. Further, Forbes Magazine named El Paso as the number one city with the lowest cost of living in the United States. This dynamic border community combines the advantages of a major metropolitan center with the ambience and neighborly charm of a modern western town. El Paso is a major transportation hub, providing state-of-the-art educational and medical facilities, abundant cultural and entertainment opportunities, year-round sports and outdoor recreation, a low crime rate, some of the best weather conditions on the planet, and an extremely favorable cost-of-living index. We are a cosmopolitan community and people from all over the world come here to live, work, do business, get an education, or retire.

El Paso’s unspoiled natural beauty is a rarity in today’s fast-paced world. During the day, our mountains take on shades of purple, vibrant orange and pale green under a sun that shines over 305 days a year. Wide-open vistas, big skies and beautiful desert weather are the norm, and almost every day ends with a breathtaking sunset.

El Paso County is the westernmost county of Texas and is bound on the southwest by the Rio Grande and Mexico, on the north and west by the state of New Mexico, and on the east by Hudspeth County, Texas. The Rio Grande valley in this area has been irrigated since pre-historic times and produces bountiful harvests of cotton, pecans, and alfalfa, and lesser amounts of numerous vegetables and fruits. Agriculture depends entirely upon irrigation from the river; the average annual rainfall is only eight inches. Desert flora and fauna abound away from the river, while fertile fields and gardens flourish under irrigation. A pleasant altitude and low humidity make most summer days agreeable while most winters are pleasant, with occasional light snows. El Paso is also home to Fort Bliss, the fastest-growing U.S. Army installation in the United States and a vital part of the City’s economy. Other pillars of El Paso’s economy include the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), El Paso Community College, and the Medical Center of the Americas, which houses the only four-year medical school located on the U.S./Mexico border, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the El Paso Children’s Hospital.

A professional symphony orchestra, a ballet company, and several theater companies provide a variety of entertainment at various beautiful venues. The Plaza Theatre, a fully restored 1930s Spanish-revival cinematic palace, hosts the Plaza Classic Film Festival, some of the best traveling Broadway shows, and other diverse concerts and plays. For outdoor explorers, there’s mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking with the highest peak, North Franklin Peak, stretching over 7,000 feet in the sky. A wide variety of sports is highlighted by Conference USA competition and the annual Sun Bowl, the 2nd oldest bowl game in the nation. The El Paso Chihuahuas, an affiliate of the San Diego Padres, finished its sixth season in front of exuberant and supportive sold-out crowds in the beautiful downtown Southwest University Ballpark winning 80 games, their second highest total in their season history and have won four consecutive Southern Division titles. An American professional soccer team, El Paso Locomotive FC, debuted March 9, 2019 bringing the USL Championship to El Paso to further improve economic development, vibrancy, and quality of life to the El Paso downtown area. The city’s newest holiday event, Winterfest, is celebrating its fourth year and is held every December and transforms downtown with lights, shopping, food, and an outdoor ice skating rink.

El Paso is also home to three of the oldest continually active missions in the country. El Paso offers high-end shopping at local boutiques, the Outlet Shoppes at El Paso, and the Fountains at Farah retail center. El Paso is particularly famous for its footwear and boasts the title “Boot Capital of the World”. To relax, there are over a dozen golf courses as well as the new Top Golf facility which you can tee of at. A new iFly Indoor Skydiving facility opened April 2019. A new retail and entertainment destination, West Town Marketplace, has opened on the west side and will feature 500,000 square feet of retail, restaurants, and entertainment. In the region, enjoy horse racing and casino gaming at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino. A short drive in any direction offers a completely new landscape, from Carlsbad Caverns to snow skiing in Ruidoso to a sea of white gypsum dunes at White Sands National Monument in Alamogordo, New Mexico.
THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
The County of El Paso was established in 1850 and is the local government authority responsible for the health, protection and welfare of area residents. County government also provides municipal services for the residents who live in unincorporated areas. The County of El Paso is divided into 4 precincts which are represented by 4 elected Commissioners, who along with the elected County Judge compose Commissioners Court. The County has 2,945 FTE staff. The County Commissioners represent citizens, respond to concerns, set the tax rate, and establish the county budget, which for FY20 was $464M. Commissioners Court also created a strategic plan for 2020—2024, and the main aspects are listed below:

Mission: Delivering sound and exceptional public services to the people of El Paso County through judicious, efficient, and responsive government, and the conscientious development of ideas that produce compassionate solutions to our community’s obligations, challenges, and ever changing demands.

Vision: Our unique heritage, diverse economy, and unified regional leadership provide an extraordinary quality of life for all.

Values: EPIC: Excellence, Professionalism, Integrity, and Creativity

Goals: Lead Justice Reform, Transform Economic Development, Increase Tourism, Upgrade Infrastructure, Promote Collaboration and Engagement, Advance Community Support Services, Value the El Paso County Family, Strengthen Financial Health, and Optimize Internal Processes

THE POSITION
The Chief Public Defender provides vision and leadership in administering all activities of the Office of the Public Defenders. The incumbent has primary responsibility for the executive administration and direction of a comprehensive program providing, legal counsel and representation to eligible persons, primarily those accused of criminal or juvenile violations of the law; directs, through subordinate managers and supervisors, program operations in accordance with the State and Federal Constitutions, State and Federal law, and the policies, regulations, codes, and ordinances of the County of El Paso. The Office is comprised of 87 FTE.

ACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION
Juris Doctorate (Law Degree) from an American Bar Association (ABA) accredited law school. With at least (10) years of experience in criminal litigation, including five (5) years specializing in criminal defense, and five (5) years in an executive level capacity. Candidate should provide documentation of experience in pro-active leadership, successfully leading an office of attorneys into best practices, positive accomplishments and measurable success and proactive collaboration (evidence that applicant is not just interested in an executive level job). Candidates past training documentation should reflect an interest in leadership with documentation of pro-active self-improvement and education in this area.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED
Must have or obtain by date of hire a valid driver's license, and applicable to job responsibilities, with a driving record acceptable to the County of El Paso.

Candidates must be licensed to practice law in Texas or fully eligible to apply to the Texas Board of Bar Examiners for admission. Please see https://ble.texas.gov/admission-without-examination for more information; must be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas or the official Bar association of the candidate's origin. The candidate will establish a reasonable, yet prompt timeline for successfully completing the Texas Bar Exam if they are not already certified to practice law in Texas.

No disciplinary history, or finding of unethical or unprofessional conduct by any jurisdiction, by the State Bar of Texas, or the State Bar of any other State, or the Federal Bar; no finding of ineffective assistance of counsel by any court.

Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) certification in either Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, or Criminal Appellate Law is required at time of, or within three (3) years of hiring.
BENEFITS (Employer Sponsored & Voluntary)

Paid Time Off
Holidays: 16 holidays per year
Vacation Leave: 10 days per year, initially
Sick Leave: 10 days of sick leave per year

Insurance
Health
Basic Life Insurance
Dental Insurance
Vision Insurance
Employee Wellness Clinic
Short & Long-Term Disability
Retiree Health Insurance
Supplemental Life Insurance
Tax Deferred Dependent Care Program
Tax Deferred Medical Program
Tax Deferred Parking

Financial
Deferred Compensation
Retirement—Employee contributes 7% every pay period; account earns 7% compounded interest annually; employee is vested after 8 years of service; current County match at retirement is 250%

Miscellaneous Benefits
Direct Deposit
Employee Assistance Program
Healthy Lifestyle Reimbursement
Educational Assistance Program
Tobacco Free Worksite
On-site Employee Gym—coming soon!

Equal Opportunity/ADA Employer
Female, Minority, and Disabled Candidates are encouraged to apply.
For more information about the County of El Paso, please visit our website at www.epcounty.com.
If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact the County of El Paso’s Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218 or at epcountyjobs@epcounty.com.