**Job Title:** Felony Attorney – Sonoma County Independent Defender’s Office

**Location:** Sonoma County, California
**Position Type:** Contract / Panel Membership
**Application Deadline:** June 15, 2025

**Overview:**

The Sonoma County Independent Defender’s Office is seeking experienced and committed criminal defense attorneys to represent clients in felony-level cases as a member of the criminal defense conflicts panel. Attorneys on this panel provide constitutionally mandated legal representation to indigent individuals when the Sonoma County Public Defender’s Office is unable to accept a case due to a conflict of interest.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Represent clients charged with felony offenses in The Sonoma County Superior Court.
* Handle all phases of representation, including arraignment, bail hearings, motions, discovery, plea negotiations, and trial.
* Maintain regular, confidential communication with clients, including those in custody at the Sonoma County Jail.
* Comply with all applicable laws, court rules, ethical standards, and the Conflict Panel’s administrative requirements.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

* Active member in good standing with the State Bar of California.
* Minimum of **three (3) years** of criminal defense experience, including representation in serious felony matters.
* Demonstrated ability to manage a felony caseload independently and ethically.
* Familiarity with California Penal Code, Evidence Code, and relevant case law.
* Experience handling jury trials in serious or violent felony cases including the demonstrated ability and willingness to handle life exposure cases.

**Panel Requirements:**

* Must carry and maintain professional liability insurance meeting Sonoma County's minimum coverage requirements.
* Must comply with all panel policies, including case tracking, billing guidelines, and ongoing training or CLE obligations.
* Must have the capacity to accept cases promptly upon assignment.

**Compensation:**

* Attorneys are paid a monthly salary dependent on experience
* Rates vary based on case complexity and attorney qualifications.

**How to Apply:**

Interested attorneys must submit the following materials:

* Cover letter summarizing interest and qualifications
* Current resume or CV
* Copy of California State Bar license (Bar number)
* Two professional references
* Optional: Writing sample demonstrating legal research and motion practice

**Submit materials by email to:** **Socodefender@gmail.com**
Sonoma County Independent Defender’s Office
Attn: Conflict Panel Administrator Nathan Poulos
880 2nd Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Socodefender@gmail.com, 707-899-3007

For more information about the Conflict Panel or to request an application packet, please contact the Conflict Panel Administrator.