

First Last

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Hiring Committee

Agency

Address

Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in joining the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy as a public defender in 2026 after I take the bar exam. As a third-year law student at the University of Toledo College of Law, with a background in criminal justice and practical experience in both prosecution and juvenile defense, I am eager to build a career grounded in client-centered, holistic advocacy for those most in need of a voice.

My passion for public defense is rooted in both academic inquiry and direct service. While earning my master's degree in criminal justice at Michigan State University, I co-authored a study on disproportionate minority contact in juvenile courts and presented findings at the Michigan Criminal Justice Reform Symposium. That research confirmed what my fieldwork later revealed: justice is not always applied equally, and systemic inequities demand courageous advocacy.

At the Public Defender Service of Michigan, I worked in the Juvenile Defense Unit, where I interviewed clients and their families, reviewed discovery, and prepared mitigation materials rooted in both law and social context. This experience deepened my resolve to become a defender who sees and serves the whole client, not just their case. Most recently, as a certified legal intern with the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office, I have gained valuable insight into courtroom procedures, Fourth and Fifth Amendment issues, and strategic motion practice.

DPA's commitment to holistic defense, extensive training, and inclusive, statewide structure make it an ideal place for someone like me, who wants both a challenging career and a supportive community. I met with one of your representatives who came to Toledo to meet with students and he and I had similar backgrounds, which drew me to your agency. I would be honored to join your team and work alongside others who believe that defending the accused is a calling, not just a job.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to attend the Defender Career Fest and to further demonstrate my commitment to the mission of the Department of Public Advocacy.

Sincerely,

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