

Chief Judge Brendan A. Maher
17th Judicial Circuit Court
Winnebago County Courthouse
400 West State Street- Rm. 215
Rockford, Illinois 61101

NOTICE OF VACANCY:

BOONE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court is accepting applications for the position of Boone County Public Defender.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

The duties of the Public Defender are established by statute, (55 ILCS 5/3-4006). The Boone County Public Defender's Office is appointed by the Court to represent indigent clients in felony, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile delinquency and juvenile abuse / neglect cases. The Office is also provides representation to adults and juveniles involved in Problem-Solving Court programs.

The Boone County Public Defender appoints and supervises staff attorneys and support personnel. The office is currently staffed by four full time assistant public defenders and three office assistants. The Public Defender establishes office policies, prepares departmental budgets, and performs related work as required. The Public Defender also assigns, directs, and evaluates the work of the staff attorneys in providing competent legal services to the public within the rules of law and professional responsibility. The Public Defender must have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, court personnel, public officials, the public, and members of the local Bar Association.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be licensed to practice law in Illinois, be in good standing with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and have at least five years experience in providing criminal legal services including felony trial work and experience in other areas of criminal law. In addition to an excellent command of substantive criminal law, other qualifications should include proven effective administrative skills, knowledge of modern methods and practices of criminal law, interviewing and counseling techniques, ability to train and develop staff professionals in legal research and presentation methods, and the ability to anticipate and resolve various related problems as they arise. Knowledge of problem-solving court's protocol and procedures is desirable.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

The salary is set by statute at not less than 90% of the compensation of the Boone County State's Attorney. The starting salary for this position is \$205,486.18 per year. Boone County benefits package included. This is a full time position. The Public Defender cannot engage in the private practice of law.

TO APPLY:

All applicants must complete an application available at the Office of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit. If you so desire, you may request that an application be e-mailed to you by submitting your request to: kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourt.gov. An application will be e-mailed to you as soon as possible during working hours.

SEND A COVER LETTER, RÉSUMÉ AND COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO: Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge Kathy Fink at kfink@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov. Applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

POSTED: August 25, 2026

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER