



OFFICE OF THE ORLEANS PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JASON ROGERS WILLIAMS

TO FILL

**Orleans Parish District Attorney
Civil Rights Division, Assistant District Attorney**

About the Orleans Parish District Attorney's (OPDA) office

Jason Williams took office as the Orleans Parish District Attorney on January 11, 2021, and is the first progressive prosecutor elected in Louisiana in the modern era. He is one of very few progressive Black prosecutors who have been elected in the Deep South. DA Williams is dedicated to helping build up community trust in the work of the Orleans Parish District Attorney's (OPDA) office by addressing wrongs that have harmed Black and Brown communities and caused them to distrust the criminal legal system. Ninety-five percent of New Orleans' prison population is Black, and New Orleans has the highest rate of proven wrongful convictions of any major city in the United States. DA Williams is building a diverse team to assist him in implementing a new vision for OPDA that is centered on his slate of progressive policies.

About the Position

The mission of the CRD is to reduce the effects of past harm done to vulnerable communities by the State—including by its failure to provide essential services to people of color—and to build a culture of integrity within the Orleans Parish District Attorney's (OPDA) office that builds community confidence in our institutions and prevents future harm.

The conviction and sentence review unit of the Civil Rights Division reviews past convictions and sentences sought by the OPDA that have harmed vulnerable communities, either because OPDA has obtained a wrongful conviction or because it has pursued extreme sentences that do nothing to improve public safety. Wrongful convictions include convictions of the actually innocent, convictions obtained in large part by the unethical or illegal conduct of state actors, or convictions obtained by racially discriminatory laws, policies or practices. The assistant district attorney (ADA) will be responsible for conviction review of potential wrongful conviction cases. Specifically, the ADA will:

- Screen and assess the cases as they are referred to the CRD for review;
- Lead conviction review on a number of assigned cases;
- Supervise investigation and victim and survivor outreach;
- Liaise with defense counsel or—where an inmate is pro se--recruit pro bono defense counsel
- Make recommendations to the Chief regarding disposition for each case.
- Make recommendations for disposition;

- Represent the State in court in all relevant proceedings;
- Perform other duties necessary for effective conviction review and the CRD.

This position will report to the Chief of the Civil Rights Division and work closely with all division staff and other divisions as necessary.

Qualifications and Experience

- 3+ years of criminal litigation experience (strong preference for state court felony prosecution)
- Experience in supervising fact investigations;
- A commitment to redressing criminal justice system excesses and mistakes of the past;
- Demonstrated ability to manage high caseload in a fast-paced environment and coordinate multiple projects at once;
- Barred in Louisiana or willing to take the February 2022 bar exam;
- Second language preferred;
- Knowledge of DNA and/or other forensic disciplines preferred.

OPDA is committed to delivering the best public service through a diverse staff with wide ranging experiences and perspectives. Applicants from traditionally marginalized groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Salary and Benefits

Salary commensurate with experience. Health and retirement benefits included.

To Apply:

Position is open immediately.

Send a resume and cover letter detailing your interest in this particular position to crdintake@orleansda.com. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer

OPDA is an equal opportunity employer. OPDA values a diverse workforce reflective of the communities that it serves. OPDA adheres to a policy of making employment decisions without regard to race, culture, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, caregiver status, prior record of arrest or conviction, citizenship, age, or disability. OPDA is committed to complying with all policies required by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972; Executive Order 11246,

as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.