



PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND BORDER CONTROL – REPUBLIC OF NAURU

The Government of Republic of Nauru's Justice Department is expanding professional services providing a range of legal services in the legal sector. Located in Nauru, we work with government departments, SOE's, and corporate stakeholders to increase the service, value, and accountability of professional services. We are currently looking for a Public Defender to work within our justice department team.

With the supervision of Secretary for Justice and Boarder Control, the objective of this role is to;

- Undertake the role of the Public Defender of Nauru and, subject to the directions of the Secretary for Justice and Border Control, to supervise and manage the Public Defender Branch within the Department;
- Assess the eligibility of defendants charged with breaches of the criminal law in the District and Supreme Courts of Nauru for assistance from the Public Defender;
- Act on behalf of defendants who qualify for assistance from initial charges to trial and appeal, if required;
- Provide advice and assistance to defendants who qualify for assistance at an early stage to allow them to make informed decisions as to the charges they face;
- Supervise the Deputy Public Defender and provide such advice and assistance as is required;
- Build local capacity amongst legal staff of the Branch.

Responsibilities:

- To be available to assess the eligibility of and act on behalf of defendants at each sitting day of the District Court and Supreme Court of Nauru or to co-ordinate the availability of the Deputy Public Defender to do so;
- To maintain the confidentiality of defendants who qualify for assistance and keep an appropriate confidential record of the charges, the evidence and any appropriate instructions and advice given;
- To supervise the branch and to organize with the Deputy Public Defender for the equitable distribution of work within the branch;

- To liaise with local and international practitioners in respect of the criminal charges arising from the incident at the Regional Processing Centre on 19 July 2013 so as to co-ordinate the appropriate representation of and advice to those asylum seekers facing charges.

Selection Criteria

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor of Laws or equivalent.
- Admission to practice as a legal practitioner in a common law jurisdiction;
- At least five (5) years' experience in criminal law particularly acting for defendants;
- Sound knowledge of criminal law and practice;
- Professional experience in a Pacific island community or similar jurisdiction is desirable.

Personal Qualities

- High standard of integrity and honesty with a demonstrated commitment to fairness and equity and commitment to principles of good governance
- Oral and written communication skills of a very high calibre;
- Ability to effectively manage a large and diverse workload;
- Ability to perform under pressure with highly developed interpersonal skill
- Willingness to adapt to the constraints of a small island community;
- Respect for different cultural attitudes and expectations.

Remuneration & Benefits

Successful candidates will receive;

- Salary at A\$65, 000 per annum (Tax Free)
- Accommodation provided
- Vehicle provided & mobile phone provided
- 30 days annual leave & Free medical coverage
- Free Education for dependants (if any)

All applications should be addressed to: **“Public Defender vacancy”; The Nauru High Commission; Attention : Lionel Aingimea, Secretary for Justice & Boarder Control; 7th Floor, Ratu Sukuna House, Macarthur street, Suva, Fiji.**

Alternatively please email your resume and covering letter to the Director HR:

Peta.Gadabu@naurugov.nr or Lionel.Aingimea@naurugov.nr

Closing date of application: 28 October 2013