

## U.S. Pretrial Services

Pretrial services officers work with defendants “pre-trial”, after they are charged with federal crimes and awaiting trial.

### Bail Investigations

Pretrial services officers conduct bail investigations on individuals charged with federal crimes to assist federal judges in making decisions about release or detention. Bail investigation reports provide information about the defendant and identify resources or services the defendant may need if released to the community.

### Pretrial Supervision

Pretrial services officers supervise defendants released to the community. Pretrial supervision aims to promote public safety while helping to ensure defendants return to court and abide by court ordered conditions of release.

## U.S. Probation

Probation officers work with individuals “post-conviction,” after they are found guilty of a federal crime, and after they are released from prison.

### Presentence Investigations

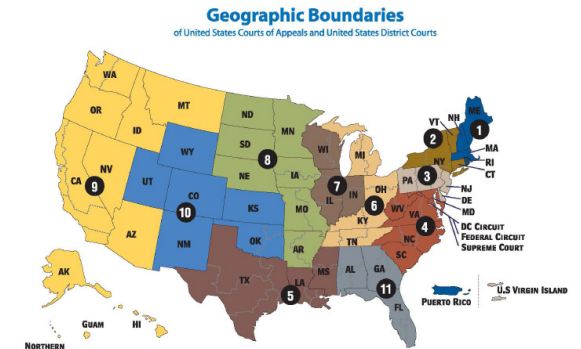
Probation officers conduct presentence investigations as ordered by the court. During the presentence investigation, officers gather information about the defendant’s background, including family, education, finances, physical and mental health, and substance use history. They also gather criminal history information and verify information through collateral interviews to ensure federal judges are provided a full and accurate presentence report prior to sentencing.

### Post-Conviction Supervision

Probation officers supervise individuals released to the community on a term of probation, parole, or supervised release. Post-conviction supervision promotes public safety and lawful self-management by supporting people on supervision to make positive changes in their lives.

## Officer Assistant

Officer assistants help probation and pretrial services officers carry out investigation and supervision duties, providing assistance and technical support in a wide range of areas. They gather information, prepare reports, and draft correspondence related to cases. Officer assistants may also assist with supervision of low-risk cases, performing some of the same duties as officers, only under close supervision.



*Probation and Pretrial Services officers and officer assistants work in every state and U.S. territory.*





## WHAT WE DO

U.S. probation and pretrial services officers make a positive difference in the communities they serve and are responsible for pretrial services, presentence investigations, and post-conviction supervision for the federal Judiciary.

Officers are the “eyes and ears” of the federal courts - they accomplish their mission by:

- Conducting impartial investigations,
- Making data informed decisions and recommendations, and
- Using evidence-based practices to inform supervision strategies and promote public safety.

Officers receive superior training and education throughout their careers at the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Academy located in Charleston, SC.

## WHO WE ARE

The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services system is decentralized and comprised of a diverse workforce that serves 94 federal districts.



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## MISSION

The mission of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services system is to assist the federal courts in the fair administration of justice, protect the community, and bring about long-term positive change in individuals under supervision.

### Charter for Excellence

“We, the members of Probation and Pretrial Services of the United States Courts, are a national system with shared professional identity, goals, and values. We facilitate the fair administration of justice and provide continuity of services throughout the judicial process. We are outcome driven and strive to make our communities safer and to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. We achieve success through interdependence, collaboration, and local innovation. We are committed to excellence as a system and to the principles embodied in this Charter.”



Learn more at:  
[https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/charter\\_for\\_excellence.pdf](https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/charter_for_excellence.pdf)



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THE UNITED STATES COURTS

# U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Careers



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