

### **Common Public Defender Interview Questions**

- Why do you want to be a public defender?
- Why this particular office?
- How would you describe yourself as a person?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What drew you to law school? To SCU Law?
- Tell me about your public service/community service experiences and what drew you to them.
- Favorite class (and why)?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What is your greatest strength/weakness?
- What qualities do you think a public defender should have?
- What is something interesting that's not on your resume?
- What one thing have you done that you're proudest of?
- What is the most difficult/rewarding thing you've ever accomplished?
- How do you work under pressure?
- What type of people do you work with best or would have trouble working with?
- Are you a team player or do you prefer to work on your own?
- What do you feel are things that help a person become successful?
- Tell me about a time you had too many things to do and had to prioritize.
- What did you do the last time things didn't go according to plan?
- Tell me about a situation where you failed. Why did you fail and what did you learn from it?
- Why should we hire you?

### ***Hypothetical Questions***

Be prepared. Some PD offices ask hypothetical questions to get a sense of your ethics/morals and commitment to public service.

- What would you do if you appeared for court and saw the government's witness in the wrong courtroom? Would you notify the judge or the prosecutor when the witness failed to show up for court in the correct courtroom?
- What would you do if you were assigned a case you were morally opposed to? How would you reconcile the conflict between your personal beliefs and the case?