Benefits
As a U.S. probation or pretrial services officer you will be offered:

- An exciting career as a federal law enforcement officer in the U.S. court
- Excellent salary
- Health benefits
- Life insurance
- Thrift savings plan with matching contributions
- Various pretax savings programs
- Hazardous duty retirement at age 57 or at age 50 with 20 years service
- At least 40 hours of in-service training annually
- Service awards
- 13-26 days annual leave
- 13 days sick leave annually
- 10 federal holidays

A Career as a U.S. Probation or Pretrial Services Officer
To qualify as a U.S. probation or pretrial services officer you must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree
- Be in good physical health
- Be under the age of 37 at time of appointment
- Undergo pre-employment and intermittent background investigations
- Undergo pre-employment medical examinations
- Undergo pre-employment and random drug testing

It is necessary to apply to each district where you may wish to be considered for employment. Please go to uscourts.gov and click on "Court Links" to find addresses and phone numbers for probation and pretrial services offices nationwide.
Accept the Challenge of a Career as a U.S. Probation or Pretrial Services Officer

As a United States probation officer you will:
- Investigate offenders' backgrounds for sentencing
- Make recommendations on sentencing offenders
- Monitor and supervise offenders under federal supervision (U.S. Courts, U.S. Parole Commission, or U.S. military authorities)

Make a Difference!

Protect society
- Interact with law enforcement
- Enforce court conditions
- Supervise offenders/defendants
- Recommend pretrial release/sentences

Advise judges
- Research and apply sentencing guidelines and statutes
- Investigate backgrounds
- Testify in court

Assist offenders
- Secure needed treatment services
- Counsel offenders/defendants
- Coordinate community resources

About the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services System

U.S. probation was created when Congress passed the Federal Probation Act of 1925. The Act provided for establishing a probation system in the U.S. courts and gave courts the power to appoint probation officers and to place defendants on probation. Pretrial services was developed as a means to deter crime committed by persons released to the community before trial and to ensure that these individuals were not detained unnecessarily. The Pretrial Services Act of 1982 authorized establishing pretrial services in courts nationwide.

Today, the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services System serves the 94 federal judicial districts nationwide. Each district has either a chief probation officer and a chief pretrial services officer who oversee the respective functions, or a chief probation officer who oversees both probation and pretrial services functions. The chiefs answer to the courts they serve.