

## Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

### **(Forensic Pathologist)**

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH), Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is currently recruiting Board-eligible/certified forensic pathologists to serve as **Deputy Chief Medical Examiner (DCME)** in beautiful Charleston, West Virginia. The DCME oversees the death investigation and prepares a medicolegal investigative report in preparation for potential expert testimony in court systems statewide. Expectations are typical and include statewide case triage with the assistance of field-based County Medical Examiners (CoME) and office-based forensic investigators (FIU); performance of external and internal examinations; interpretation of ancillary studies; completion of death certificates; formation of an expert opinion; and coordination of studies with approved third parties.

#### Relevant Features:

- Code-mandated single-mission office: determine the cause and manner of death
- Statewide Medical Examiner system with independence protected by state code
- Investigative reports are not public documents in West Virginia
- Death scene attendance at the physician's discretion
- Shared on-call duties rotated equitably
- No cases generally scheduled on Sundays or holidays
- Postmortem organ recovery only with pathologist approval
- Opportunity to train CoME and rotating medical students
- Secure facility with highly restricted access to autopsy suites
- Liability protection provided by the state

#### Minimum Qualifications/Training:

Successful completion of an American Board of Pathology (ABP) approved forensic pathology fellowship and ABP Certification or eligibility in Anatomic Pathology (AP) or Anatomic and Clinical Pathology (AP/CP) and Forensic Pathology (FP). Board-eligible applicants will be expected to obtain AP or AP/CP Board Certification within one year of hire and FP Subspecialty Certification within one year of obtaining AP certification. Candidates should have knowledge of principles, practices, techniques, and advances in the area of forensic pathology and medicolegal death certification.

#### Other requirements:

The applicant must be able to obtain both a license to practice medicine/surgery in the State of West Virginia and a valid West Virginia driver's license. Additionally, the successful completion of a background investigation is required prior to the start of employment.

Abilities:

Possess a sufficient knowledge base, judgment, and sufficient interpersonal skills to direct the work of ancillary professional and support staff in order to competently conduct effective death investigation into a wide variety of death circumstances; recognize and assign forensic import of a variety of potential natural, injury-related and toxicology-related causes of death; recognize death circumstances that compel notification to other public health or safety agencies; follow the departmental or institutional policies concerning all facets of the OCME workplace; and clearly communicate with a wide variety of people, both orally and in writing.

Compensation and Benefits Include:

- \$255,000 annual salary, and up to \$12,000 relocation reimbursement to qualifying candidates
- Paid vacation, paid holidays, and paid sick/family sick leave
- Health, dental, vision, retiree health, basic life, and supplemental life insurance
- Defined benefit pension plan and available supplemental retirement plan

About the Area:

West Virginia is especially popular to outdoor enthusiasts, as it offers many exciting adventures across the state, such as world class whitewater rafting, hiking, biking, skiing, boating, hunting, fishing, camping, and much more. Kanawha County offers a variety of cultural activities and numerous fairs and festivals.