



Lake County Public Defender

June 7, 2022

Department Overview



Primary Functions:

Provide legal representation to:

- **Indigent accused—adults and juveniles, charged with criminal offenses**
- **Parents accused of the abuse, neglect, dependency of children**
- **Respondents to Mental Health/Medication petitions**
- **Sexually Violent and Sexually Dangerous Persons**
- **Post-Conviction Petitioners**
- **Guardian Ad Litem to abused, neglected, dependent minors & those pending adoption**

Department Overview

The Public Defender's Office staffs 14 courtrooms and handles approximately 22 court calls on a daily basis. This includes:

- **5 Felony courtrooms (Staffed 5 days/week)**
- **5 Misdemeanor/Traffic courtrooms (Staffed 5 days/week)**
- **1 Bond courtroom (Staffed 7 days/week)**
- **2 Juvenile courtrooms (Staffed 6 days/week)**
- **1 Specialty & Fitness courtroom (Staffed 4-5 days/week)**

	2020	2021
New Case Appointments:	8,819	7896
Supplemental Appointments:	2,107	1435

- **This is approximately a 9% decrease in appointments between 2020 & 2021**
- **50% decrease in Delinquency petitions between 2020-2021**
- **25% decrease in GAL representation between 2020-2021**
- **Changes in how cases are counted beginning January, 2022**

Chief Public Defender

Supervisors:

- Felony
- Traffic/Misdemeanor
- Juvenile—Delinquency/Parent
- Juvenile—GAL
- Special Defense/Training/Conflicts
- Investigations
- Support Staff

Staff:

- 10 Felony Attorneys
- 12 Misdemeanor/Traffic Attorneys
- 2 Guardian Ad Litem Attorneys
- 2 Delinquency/Parent Attorneys
- 2 Specialty Court Attorneys
- 2 Investigators
- 1 Immigration Analyst
- 2 Social Workers
- 2 GAL Investigators
- 7 Support Staff

2022 Department Budget



\$5,685,908

Approximately 89% of budget is related to personnel costs

Accomplishments in the Previous 12 Months:

- Continued to provide representation during COVID
 - Seeing clients in person and jail
 - Attending court proceedings in person and via ZOOM
 - Worked to educate clients on how to access ZOOM
- Through participation in Safety & Justice Challenge grant, worked to reduce jail population, address racial and ethnic disparity in jail, provided text reminders of upcoming court dates
- Continue to create and implement a new case management system—E-Defender
- Continue to refer clients to Specialty Court programs to address substance abuse and mental health issues and potentially reduce recidivism
- Enhanced and fully staffed GAL division

Upcoming Challenges

- **Recruitment and Retention of Attorneys**
 - Inability to recruit qualified attorneys (3 vacancies currently)
 - Loss of staff due to lack of competitive salaries
- **Unfunded Mandates created by Crime Bill legislation**
 - Increased use of body cam video increases workloads
 - Additional court dates for detention hearings may require additional personnel & space
 - Increase use of EHM and cost to defendants
- **Digital Discovery Retention**
 - Need to protect confidentiality of client files
 - No ability to store digital discovery



Questions?