

Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Budget Highlights and Goals

PUBLIC DEFENDER

FY2007 Highlights

- Caseload continues to increase, yet quality legal representation to indigent clients continues at small cost to County.
- Efficient management of human resources to continue courtroom coverage and satisfy mandatory continuing legal education.
- Office staffing modified to face the challenges posed by recent Supreme Court rule changes.
- Public Defender compensation continues to be paid by State.
- Expanded the use of present office resources to address expansion of the criminal justice system.
- Revamped several administrative procedures.
- "E-court" implementation continuing.
- Sustain used to create a Public Defender specific case management system.
- Efficient use of office space in new office location.

FY2008 Goals

- 1) Implement an electronic case management system to deal with the high number of appointed clients.
- 2) Courtroom representation
 - a. Ensure horizontal representation for each appointed client and each full time public defender being responsible for an assigned courtroom
 - b. Maintain and preserve flexibility and professionalism in providing quality legal representation in criminal and related proceedings to indigent defendants at small cost to county.
- 3) Investigations
 - a. Ensure newly appointed clients are promptly interviewed.
 - b. Design and implement comprehensive procedures, investigating crime scenes, transporting defendants, and assisting in the preparation of materials which will be used at trial when the defendant's side of the case is presented.
- 4) Reception/clerical
 - a. Ensure coordination between client and attorney
 - b. Build and maintain data base of reports, motions, memos, briefs, etc.
 - c. Maintain open communication between staff members to foster team effort.