

Department Name	Public Defender's Office
Account(s)	1170

Department Function
The Office of the Public Defender serves indigent people requiring legal representation in criminal or family court proceedings, under Article 18A and 18B of the County Law. We represent people in 15 separate city, town, and village courts, as well as Albany County Court and Albany County Family Court. Clients are either assigned by the Courts or taken on after an application for representation is deemed eligible. The Public Defender provides legal services at all stages of proceedings, from pre-arrest interviews/investigations through final disposition, including appeals, post-conviction motions and sealing and expungement applications.

Current Year Highlights
- Assigned felony level trial attorneys to the Adolescent Part (Raise the Age) in Albany Family Court which has achieved great success. - Attorneys in the Office successfully argued cases before the NYS Court of Appeals. - Expanded supports and assistance available to our clients, by adding two Criminal Defense Caseworkers, a Peer Advocate and a Family Court Staff Social Worker. They assist with drafting mitigation reports. - Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA) attorneys continue to provide legal representation to all defendants, often appearing at "off hour" arraignments. - Receipt and retention of discovery evidence from the prosecution has increased substantially, and we now utilize the NYS Defenders Association cloud-based case management and file storage system to manage this process.

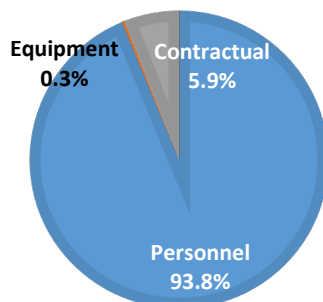
Next Year Projects
- Reorganize the Office's reporting and organizational structure to align with the changing landscape of indigent defense in NYS, and to ensure the Office is meeting the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Service's (ILS) attorney caseload standards. - Continue the Public Defender's necessary growth by utilizing funding provided by New York State, and pursue competitive grant opportunities to expand our ability to provide quality representation in Family Court. - Anticipating the volume of cases to rise next year, our Office continues to make investments in staffing, technology, and training to maintain the "best in class" legal representation the Office of the Public Defender has a reputation of providing.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/PublicDefender
-----------------	--

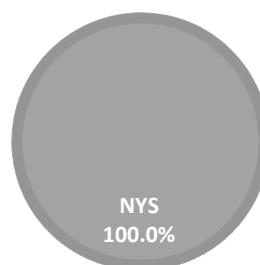
Department Name	Public Defender's Office
Account(s)	1170

Financial Charts

FORECASTED COSTS, BY TYPE



FORECASTED REVENUES, BY TYPE



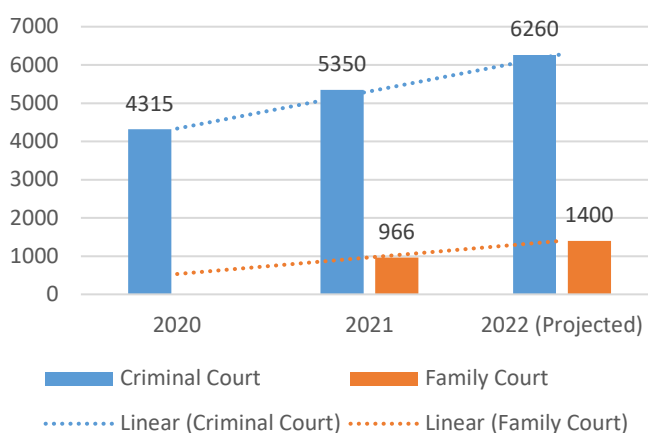
The Department's primary annual expenses are personnel such as attorneys, caseworkers, investigators, administrators, support staff, and interns who contribute to indigent defense. Annual contractual expenses are for vendors that provide cloud-based case management systems and discovery storage, legal reference materials, subscriptions, conferences, training/CLEs, etc.

Revenues received by the PD's Office are completely from New York State, the bulk of which are grants from the Office of Indigent Legal Services including funding for the Statewide Implementation of the Hurrell-Harring settlement. Revenues are budgeted at \$6.39 million for 2023.

The 2023 Budget has a forecasted County Share of \$2.98 million for the Public Defender.

Programmatic Highlights

Cases Opened by Albany County Public Defender



In 2022, the Office of the Public Defender saw an increase in the number of cases opened in Criminal and Family Courts, compared to the past two years. The increase coincides with the Courts reopening after the COVID-19 induced slowdown. In criminal court, the 3,130 cases opened in the first six months of 2022 represent a 28% increase compared to the first six months of 2021. In family court, the 700 cases opened in the first six months of 2022 represent a 45% increase compared to the last six months of 2021.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/PublicDefender
-----------------	--