Department Name	Alternate Public Defender
Account(s)	1171

Department Function
The Office of Alternate Public Defender provides equal access to compassionate quality legal representation to every person who cannot afford to hire an attorney. We address disproportionality in the criminal legal system, the collateral consequences of system involvement and other systemic issues that undermine the rights of our clients. We strive to achieve our client's objectives while maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards. We provide legal representation to eligible adults and juveniles who have been charged with committing a crime and cannot afford an attorney, as well as people who have convicted of a crime on appeal, parents who could lose their children in welfare and neglect cases, and people seeking to vacate a past felony or misdemeanor conviction.

Current Year Highlights
Our office started the year with multiple trials, some resulting in acquittals after trial. Appellate representation continues to be successful. Although, we continue to maintain a more equitable local court assignment plan and a renewed focus on client-centered representation, it has been a difficult year in trying to recruit attorneys with interest in providing public defense. We continue to search for experienced attorneys with expressed interest in public defense. We have hired a social worker for Family Court, which is a great asset to the families that we represent in Family Court. Our office continues to be at the forefront in alternatives to incarceration through participation in various diversion programs, such as drug treatment court, opioid court, mental health court, and other diversionary programs.

Next Year Projects
With funding provided by DCJS for discovery, we intend on implementing a digitization of our case files, including all discovery materials, court filings and appellate records and briefs. Based on the increase in caseload and the increase in discovery, the Office of Indigent Legal Services is providing funding for an additional attorney and a paralegal to assist with our criminal defense team. We will continue seeking funding to improve the quality of representation provided in Family Court.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/APD

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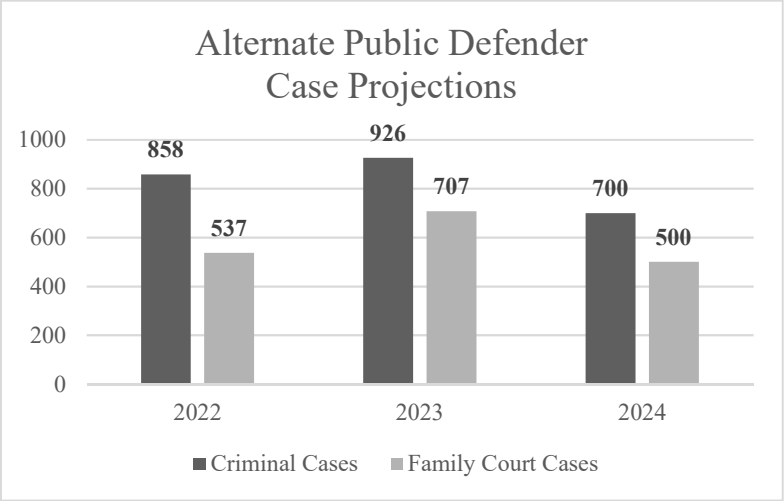
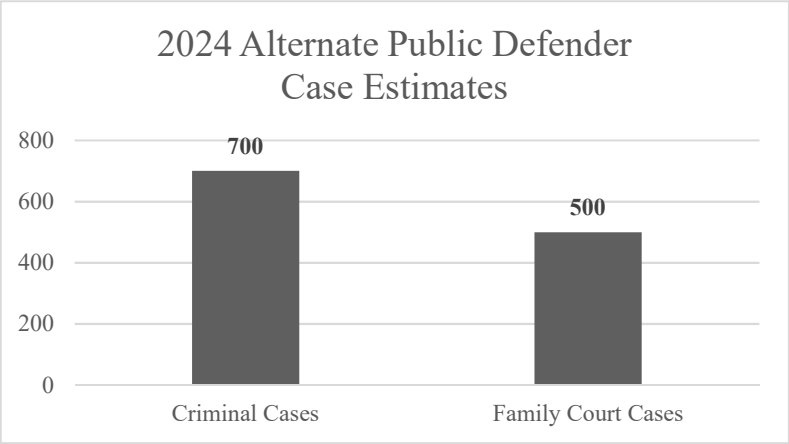
Programmatic Highlights





In 2024, the Office of the Alternate Public Defender has continued to maintain a more equitable court assignment plan. In recent years, the APD has been assigned more homicide and attempted homicide cases compared to the averages of prior years.

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