

PUBLIC DEFENDER - 1170

MISSION

The mission of the Public Defender's Office is to defend indigent persons charged with violations of law that could result in incarceration upon conviction and to represent indigent parties in Family Court matters.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Office of the Albany County Public Defender provides free legal representation for indigent persons charged with violating New York State criminal laws.

The Public Defender's office has traditionally been staffed by a combination of full-time and part-time attorneys. In 2007, the County Executive proposed, and the Legislature endorsed, a long term plan to create a full-time law office. The first step in this plan was undertaken late in 2007 when the office transitioned three part-time Family Court attorneys to full-time. This change allows even greater access to attorneys by clients, judges and other court personnel.

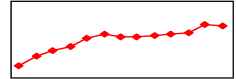
The 2008 Budget transitioned three additional attorneys from their part-time status to full-time. Those attorneys were each assigned to one of three sitting County Court Judges. The 2009 Budget continued the transition of part-time attorneys to full-time in the Department by converting 7 positions to full-time for a total conversion of 18 attorney positions or more than 50% of its attorney staff. The result was more effective and efficient representation of the Office's Albany County Court clients.

The Executive Budget proposes to delay the transition of the remaining nine attorneys yet to be converted due to this year's fiscal constraints.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Public Defender experienced a 6.2 percent increase in caseload, providing for 12,445 cases in 2009.
- The Department's budget includes a total decrease of \$53,351 in County share or a decrease of 1.9 percent compared to 2010.
- The Administrative Assistant has been placed into personal service savings for 2011.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$1,783,520
1999:	\$2,174,864
2000:	\$2,404,133
2001:	\$2,590,080
2002:	\$2,921,329
2003:	\$3,128,383
2004:	\$2,987,284
2005:	\$3,017,648
2006:	\$3,059,196
2007:	\$3,141,077
2008:	\$3,201,034
2009:	\$3,506,917
2010:	\$3,492,575

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of the
Public Defender
County of Albany
60 South Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12207
Office: (518) 447-7150
Fax: (518) 447-5533