

CONNECTICUT DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022



Equality. Justice. Community.

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Our nation is still reeling.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge. Upticks in infection rates, especially within the facilities where many of our clients are housed, sweep through the state. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to obtain an abortion. Most states within the United States of America have either proposed legislation or moved towards eliminating critical race theory in schools.

Yet, the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services continues to grow, adapt, and shift. The field offices have been stellar. They have all managed high caseloads with grace, continued their zealous advocacy for clients, remained in tuned with the communities we serve and exude passion and commitment at every level. The Specialty Units, Directors, Office of Chief Public Defender employees, and all those who comprise the Executive and Middle Management teams have remained steadfast, engaged, and determined.

We are a front-facing, client centered agency. The business of criminal defense for the indigent makes us very different from other agencies and entities. Whether team members are in the field or at the Office of Chief Public Defender, we all understand and value the mission of our agency as well as the connectedness and accessibility to our clients and their families. The onset of COVID-19 brought change to daily operations. The field offices have returned to pre-COVID operations but some support staff in the field and all the Specialty Units have incorporated teleworking into their regular routines.

It has been said that time is filled with swift transition. Our agency continues to move in a positive direction. Trials have picked up in many of the field offices. The attorneys and support staff remain vigilant and productive in this area. Virtual hearings have decreased in the field offices but are still used. The consolidation of the Stamford & Norwalk as well as the Hartford & Enfield courthouses is official. The former Norwalk and Enfield courthouses will be repurposed. Again, our team has handled the mergers with poise and dexterity. A new Training Director has brought new initiatives, fresh energy, and a commitment to making sure that every level of advocacy, representation and interpersonal skills is addressed. The first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has pushed the envelope to make sure that uncomfortable conversations, regarding uncomfortable topics, has begun while embracing everyone with a smile and a challenge to do better. The first Black person, a woman, is now Chief Public for the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services. She brings a three-fold vision: recruitment and retention to diversity of all levels, rebranding with a focus on community engagement outside of the court setting, revitalization of the entire Division personnel. Her understanding and devotion to the agency is seen through 25 plus years working for this amazing agency chock full of talented and dedicated attorneys and support staff.

The ardor that the entire team of this Division displays, daily, for our clients and their families is unmatched. Our clients are represented by team members who understand the assignment, possess the required work ethic, and bear the desire to help.

Organization and Composition

Chapter 887 of the Connecticut General Statutes details the Public Defender Services. Per statute (§51-289), the Public Defender Commission is an independent body (within the Judicial Department) for fiscal and budgetary purposes only. It establishes rules for income and eligibility guidelines, a compensation plan, authorizes public expenditures for expert and investigative services, makes policies and appointments.

The Office of Chief Public Defender manages the Connecticut Public Defender system and specialized legal representation. It is located at 55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Fl., in Hartford, CT. The staff include the Director of Training, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Director of Assigned Counsel, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Legal Counsel (Director), Financial Director, Director of Juvenile Post Conviction, Director of Complex Litigation, Director of Human Resources, Chief Social Worker, Chief Investigator, Manager of Administrative Services, Systems Manager, PDSIS Business Manager, Supervisor of Legal Services (Hartford) and Supervisor of Connecticut Innocence Project & Post Conviction. There are also attorneys and support staff.

The field offices of the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services provide all legal services for indigent clients throughout the state per United States and Connecticut Constitutions. The following chart displays the breakdown of staff as of December 30, 2022:

FY 21/22			
	FT	PT	TOTAL
ATTORNEYS	222		222
SUPPORT STAFF	60	5	65
ADMINISTRATION	30		30
INVESTIGATORS	57		57
SOCIAL WORKERS	41		41
	410	5	415

The Chief Administrative Officer for the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services, appointed by the Commission, is Chief Public Defender TaShun Bowden-Lewis. The Deputy Chief Public Defender is John Day. Per statute (§51-291), the Chief Public Defender directs and supervises all personnel, controls the operations of the Public Defender Services and is responsible for the supervision and direction of all personnel, offices, divisions, and facilities of the Division.

Our services are provided to “indigent” adult and juvenile clients throughout the state of Connecticut at thirty-eight (38) field offices and six (6) specialty units and branches of the Office of Chief Public Defender. We represent clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, appeals, post-conviction matters, children in contested family court custody cases and respondents in contempt and paternity cases in family support matters. Per statute (§51-296), we may be appointed to represent individuals in any criminal matter, habeas corpus

proceeding arising from a criminal matter, any extradition proceeding, or any delinquency matter.

Leadership

Administration

Chief Public Defender
TaShun Bowden-Lewis

Deputy Chief Public Defender
John Day

Financial Director
Stephen Hunt

Systems Manager
Greg Dion

Director of Training
Andrew O'Shea

Director of Diversity, Equity,
& Inclusion
Daryl McGraw

Legal Counsel, Director
Deborah D. Sullivan

Director of Assigned Counsel
Alix Walmsley

Director of Delinquency Defense
& Child Protection
Susan Hamilton

Director of Juvenile Post
Conviction
James Connolly

Director of Complex Litigation
Joseph Lopez

Director of Human Resources
Erin Ryan

Manager of Administrative
Services
Jen Loo

Judicial Districts

Danbury
James Lamontagne

Fairfield
James Pastore

Hartford
Damian Tucker

Litchfield
Corrie Mainville

Middlesex
Angela Anastasi

Ansonia-Milford
John Walkley

New Britain
Christopher Eddy

New Haven
Molly Arabolos

New London
Kevin Barrs

Stamford
Jared Millbrandt

Tolland
Brad Buchta

Waterbury
Rashad Glass

Windham
George Flores

Geographical Areas

Bridgeport #2
Thomas J. Paoletta

Danbury #3
James Lamontagne

Derby #5
Carla Droniak

Hartford #14
David Warner

Manchester #12
Milton Walsh

Meriden #7
John Delbarba

Middletown #9
Angela Anastasi

Milford #22
John Walkley

New Haven #23
Bevin Salmon

New London #10
Sean Kelly

Norwich #21
Richard Perry

Rockville #19
Brad Buchta

Stamford #1
Jared Millbrandt

PDSIS Business Manager
Frank DiMatteo

Chief Social Worker
Katie Farrell

Chief Investigator
Ellen Knight

Supervisor of Legal Services
(Hartford)
Jennifer Bourn

Supervisor of Connecticut Innocence
& Post Conviction
Robert Meredith

Torrington #18
Corrie Mainville

Waterbury #4
Michael Richards

Windham #11
George Flores

Specialty Units

Connecticut Valley Hospital
& Whiting Forensic Hospital
William O'Connor

Hartford Community Court
Sandra Davis

Legal Services (Waterbury)
Pamela Nagy

Parole Revocation Unit
Sonia Jones

Waterbury Community Court
Michael Richards

Juvenile Matters

Bridgeport
John DiStassio

Hartford
Michael Walker

Middletown
Angela Anastasi

New Britain
Karen Hardy-
Massaro

New Haven
Renee Cimino

Rockville
Michael Walker

Stamford
John DiStassio

Torrington
Danae Dwyer

Waterbury
Danae Dwyer

Waterford
Keith Foren

Willimantic
Keith Foren

Expenditures 2022

The Public Defender Services Commissions' Actual General Fund Expenditures for FY 2022 totaled \$69,042,216. Below is a breakout of the actual expenditures for the agency:

Account	FY 2022
Personal Services	\$ 45,574,854
Other (Operating) Expenses	\$ 1,531,065
Assigned Counsel	\$ 19,534,295
Expert Witnesses	\$ 2,284,121
Training and Education	\$ 117,882
Total FY 22 Expenditures	\$ 69,042,216

The Commission's FY 2021 expenditures of \$69.04 million supported a permanent staff of 391 full-time and 10 part-time employees, 211 of whom were attorneys. Other staff consisted of administrative, social work, investigative, secretarial, and clerical personnel.

Appropriated Budget 2023

In FY 2023, the Commission's total available General Fund appropriation is \$78,709,862 to support a staff of 451 full time positions (the agency authorized position count) and 7 part-time positions. Below is a breakout of the FY 2023 General Fund available appropriations.

Account	FY 2023
Personal Services	\$ 51,026,954
Other (Operating) Expenses	\$ 1,565,163
Assigned Counsel	\$ 23,222,393
Expert Witnesses	\$ 2,775,604
Training and Education	\$ 119,748
Total FY 23 Appropriation	\$ 78,709,862

FEDERAL GRANTS

Court Improvement Program (CIP) Training Grant

In FY 2022, \$39,150 was spent on a federal grant pass through Judicial titled, Court Improvement Program (CIP) Training. The funding is to enhance and strengthen the core competencies that surround matters of child welfare and protection for legal, court and child welfare agency personnel through the creation and implementation of a professional development system that identifies needs and provides ongoing training to meet those needs to help provide for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children in foster care in the State of Connecticut. The CIP Training Grant ended 09/30/2021 and the remaining funds \$10,850 returned.

Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant

In FY 2022, \$617,677 was spent on a federal grant pass through Office of Policy & Management titled, Coronavirus Relief Fund. The funding is to relieve significant expenditure pressures on certain state agencies due to Coronavirus pandemic. The Coronavirus Relief Fund (Budget Reference 2022) ended 12/31/2021 and the remaining funds \$197,475 was de-allotted by OPM.

CLIENT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

A client reimbursement program was implemented by the Commission in 1992-93 at the direction of the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly and has continued in effect with full implementation at twenty (20) G.A. offices. All clients, except those in custody, are requested to reimburse the system \$25 towards the cost of their defense. A minimal, flat amount was set to simplify the collection process and to encourage clients to make some effort of payment.

A total of \$19,194 was collected in FY 2022, compared to \$2,435 collected in FY 2021. This drastic decrease in the amount collected in recent years was a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While some public defender clients are unable to meet this minimal reimbursement charge, these clients are entitled to services of the public defenders, by constitution and by statute, regardless of whether they make payment. As such, the agency must rely on voluntary payment by financially able clients to collect these funds.

DPDS Financial Unit & the COVID-19 Pandemic

Like many units throughout state government, the DPDS Financial Unit had to make various adjustments to continue fiscal operations through the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to utilize deployed laptops and the web-based systems of CORE-CT, Filemaker Pro and Microsoft Office to keep our primary operations functioning with little to no interruption. In addition, the Financial Unit was able to assist in applying for, securing, and managing the CRF and CESF (detailed above) Federal grants, which provided funding for temporary attorney positions and equipment that helped field offices manage the backlog of cases that accumulated due to reduced court operations. Those grants were part of the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) stimulus legislations passed by Congress.

During Fiscal Year 202, the Human Resources unit continued to focus on three major areas: retirements, recruitments and COVID response. There were 36 retirements, including two staff within the HR department. To enhance the recruitment efforts for entry-level attorneys, the Division enacted a “provisional attorney” program in Fiscal Year 2022, to start in 2023, which will hire recent law school graduates into provisional positions, with a guaranteed promotion to Deputy Assistant Public Defender upon passing the Connecticut Bar Exam. The Division also received grant money for the hiring of Fellowship Interns/Attorneys, and the process of recruiting for those fifteen (15) positions began in Fiscal 2022.

EMPLOYEE SEPARATIONS	
Discharge	1
Employee Transfer Out of Agency	6
Resigned in Good Standing	25
Retirement	36
TOTAL	68

EMPLOYEE HIRES	
Hire	
Attorneys	18
Investigators	3
Social Workers	4
Support Staff	11
	36
Promotion to Vacancy	
Chief Public Defender	1
Investigator	2
Public Defender	2
Social Worker	1
Supervising Assistant Public Defender	3
Support Staff	4
	13
TOTAL	49

Workforce Analysis-Division of Public Defender Services

This comparison is based on the Division's employees as of October 1, 2022. Workforce availability figures are based on the 2006-2010 American Community Survey as reportable by the U.S. Census Bureau.

MALES

OFFICIALS/ ADMINISTRATORS (39)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	13	33.3%	51.5%
HISPANIC/LATINO	2	5.1 %	1.0%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	5	12.8%	2.3%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.0%
ASIAN	1	2.6%	2.5%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

FEMALES

OFFICIALS/ ADMINISTRATORS			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	14	35.9%	34.2%
HISPANIC/LATINO	0	0.0%	0.9%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	3	7.7%	2.4%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.1%
ASIAN	1	2.6%	1.4%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

MALES

PROFESSIONALS (236)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	97	41.1%	36.7%
HISPANIC/LATINO	3	1.3%	0.7%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	3	1.3%	2.5%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.0%
ASIAN	0	0.0%	3.5%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

FEMALES

PROFESSIONALS			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	106	44.9%	45.4%
HISPANIC/LATINO	6	2.5%	1.0%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	18	7.6%	3.5%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.0%
ASIAN	3	1.3%	2.6%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

MALES

PROTECTIVE SERVICE (55) WORKERS (NON-SWORN)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	16	29.0%	38.5%
HISPANIC/LATINO	10	18.1%	0.4%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	0	0.0%	5.4%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.1%
ASIAN	0	0.0%	0.0%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.8%

FEMALES

PROTECTIVE SERVICE WORKERS (NON-SWORN)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	24	43.6%	34.8%
HISPANIC/LATINO	2	3.6%	2.4%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	3	5.5%	7.5%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.0%
ASIAN	0	0.0%	0.3%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.8%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

MALES

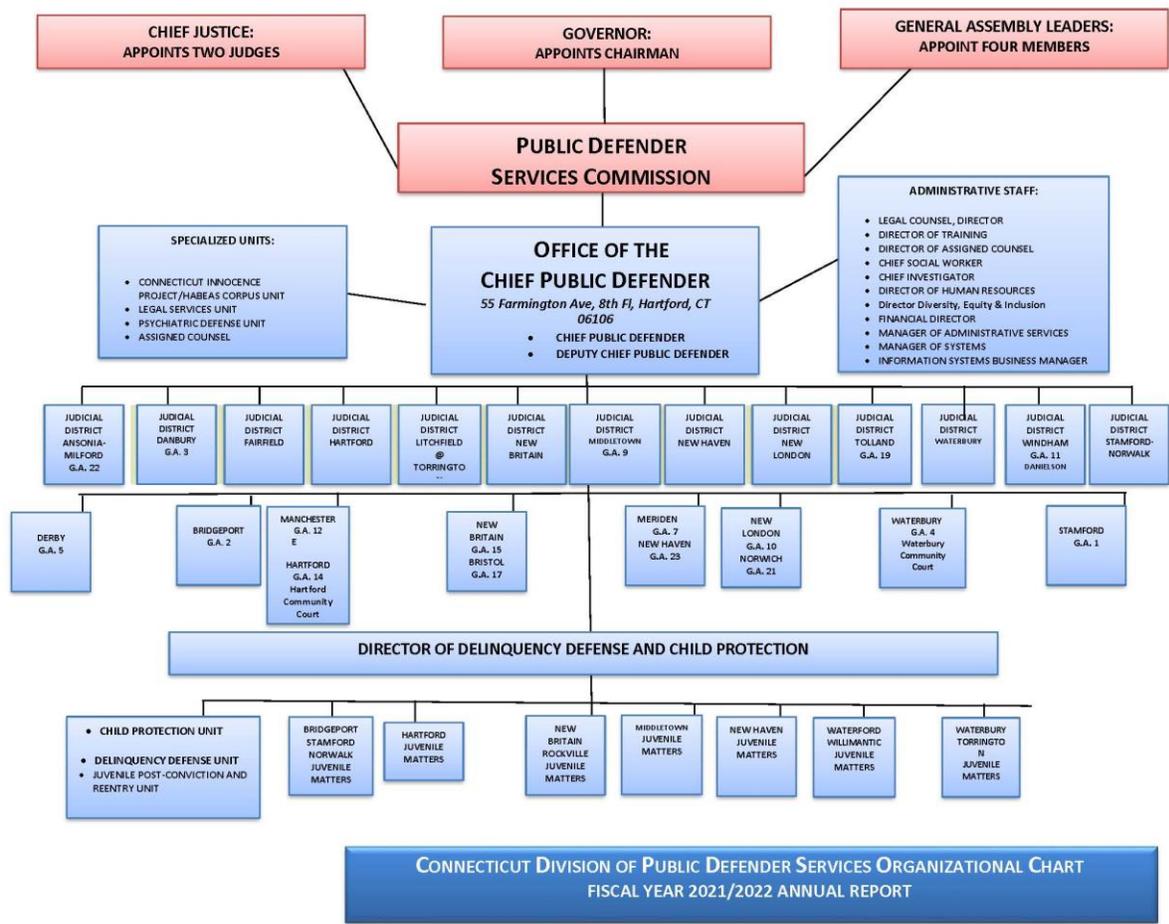
(75) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	3	4.0%	27.5%
HISPANIC/LATINO	2	2.7%	1.4%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	1.3%	3.1%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.1%
ASIAN	1	1.3%	1.2%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.1%

FEMALES

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	35	46.7%	49.3%
HISPANIC/LATINO	16	21.3%	3.4%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	13	17.3%	6.1%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.1%
ASIAN	1	1.3%	1.4%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	3	4.0%	0.2%

MALES/FEMALES

SUMMARY OF WORKFORCE		
TOTAL MALES	157	38.7%
TOTAL FEMALES	248	61.2%
TOTAL MINORITY	97	24.0%
TOTAL MINORITY FEMALES	69	27.8%
TOTAL MINORITY MALES	28	17.8%



The 2022 session was not conducted totally in person again due to COVID. Although the House sessions were open, many legislators opted to participate virtually from their “portals” within their offices at the Legislative Office Building. The Senate, and the third floor on which it is located, was closed to the public, state agency liaisons, and lobbyists. Thankfully, we were able to congregate on the fourth floor with other state agency liaisons during this time. As a result, this office was again presented with challenges as it endeavored to advocate for criminal justice issues that impact the agency and our clients.

The Public Defender Legislative Committee collaborated with the Office of Chief Public Defender on the following four proposals during the 2022 session which would:

1. **Sentence Modification** - *Clarify the retroactive application of section 25 of Public Act 21-102, as amended by section 63 of Public Act 21-104.*

PASSED – See P.A. 22-36, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification

2. **Eligibility for Miller-Graham Hearings** - *Amend Public Act 15-84 to expand the eligibility for these hearings to include persons who were 18 and 19 years of age at the time of their conduct.*

Not Raised.

3. **Statements of Juveniles** - *Require that parents or the guardians of juveniles ages 16 and 17 be present when the juveniles are speaking with law enforcement in order for the juvenile’s statement(s) to be admissible in any proceeding.*

Not Raised.

4. **Family Relation Reports** - *Ensure that the defense and prosecution are provided copies of reports and information provided to the court by family relations throughout the criminal process.*

Not Raised.

The following public acts were supported by the Office of Chief Public Defender:

- P.A. 22-118 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023, Concerning Provisions Related to Revenue, School Construction and Other Items to Implement the State Budget and Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State. (This included sections that repealed statutory provisions that imposed liability on an individual for repayment of certain costs incurred when the individual was incarcerated.)*
- P.A. 22-18 An Act Concerning the Correction Advisory Committee, the Use of Isolated Confinement and Transparency for Conditions of Incarceration*
- P.A. 22-45 An Act Concerning Connecticut Valley and Whiting Forensic Hospitals*
- P.A. 22-47 An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health*

Looking forward to the 2023 session, the OCPD legislative package includes proposed legislation which would amend statutes pertaining to juror compensation, an affirmative defense, felony murder, P.A. 15-84 hearings, possession of narcotics, and the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB). This office remains hopeful that the 2023 legislative session will return to in-person meetings, hearings, and sessions. However, there have been some signals that the 2023 session could again be both in-person and virtual as during 2022. The 2023 session begins on January 4, 2023 and concludes at midnight on June 7.

Throughout FY22, the juvenile and family courts continued transitioning back to pre-pandemic operations. The Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit, including its 10 juvenile field offices,

worked in collaboration with the Judicial Branch during this transition to ensure that our clients had meaningful access to the court, including in-person proceedings and trials. The unit remained active in the community and provided numerous trainings and presentations at community forums to address youth justice issues and dispel misperceptions about a perceived spike in juvenile crime as portrayed in the media.

In addition, the unit continued its work as an integral member of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), serving in a leadership role on several workgroups to address racial/ethnic disparity in the system, improve conditions of confinement, increase diversion and reduce recidivism. This included successful efforts to raise the lower age of juvenile court jurisdiction and require automatic *pre-arrest* diversion for low-level offenses. Also, as a member of the New England Regional Board of the National Juvenile Defender Center (KNA, “The Gault Center”), we became the first state in the country to add a social worker to its board to highlight the importance of multidisciplinary representation and the critical role of social workers in our youth justice and child welfare systems.

The unit also participated in statewide Racial and Ethnic Diversity (RED) workgroups to address over-representation and equity issues in both the youth justice and child welfare systems. Several new initiatives were implemented in child welfare cases to address timely access to services to prevent removal of children from their homes and expedite permanency, including reunification with their families. To that end, we spearheaded efforts to secure federal IV-E funding to provide parents with access to an attorney *prior* to a DCF case being filed in court to help prevent a child’s removal from home whenever possible. We continue to work in collaboration with DCF to implement this access and leverage additional funding to improve the overall quality of legal presentation for both parents and children in child welfare cases.

The Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit continued to manage its own state training budget and the federal Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant funds to provide a myriad of training programs during FY22. These included, but were not limited to, a full 4-day mandatory pre-service training for all new child welfare attorneys, educational law, bullying and school discipline, advocating for youth at MYI, child welfare/DCF training for adult defenders, ADA advocacy, psychological evaluations, and litigating race in juvenile court proceedings.

We also continued to serve as a member of the Standing Committee for AMC/GALs in Family Court and administered the mandatory pre-service training required to be appointed by the family court in contested dissolution and custody matters. This year we also launched an online registration and training program to provide ongoing access to the training program. In addition, we remained actively involved in representing indigent respondents at risk of incarceration in Family Support Magistrate Court and advocated for

policy and legislative reform in this area to promote fairness and address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact our clients.

This unit also experienced increased attrition this year with several retirements impacting our juvenile field offices. However, this provided us with an opportunity to promote several experienced juvenile defenders into supervisory positions and to backfill their vacancies with highly talented and energetic new defenders who are committed to our mission and improving outcomes for the youth clients we serve.

During Fiscal Year 2022 assigned counsel attorneys regularly handled some of the most difficult cases for the Division, litigating cases alongside our agency attorneys. The assigned counsel attorneys come from larger firms, medium and smaller firms, and many are solo practitioners.

Assigned counsel attorneys handled the following practice areas for the Division:

- Criminal JD
- Criminal GA
- Juvenile Delinquency including Guardian ad Litem
- Habeas Corpus and post-conviction matters included innocence cases
- Criminal Appellate
- Child protection
- Child Protection Appeals
- Family State rate Attorney for the Minor Child/ Guardian ad Litem
- Family Support Contempt

As with previous fiscal years, the Assigned Counsel Unit assigned, tracked and managed thousands (20, 942) of cases, managed approximately 281 attorneys (to over 450 attorneys in recent years), managed the contracts for each attorney/firm on an annual basis, and managed and audited the billing/compensation for their cases throughout Fiscal Year 2022. The Assigned Counsel Unit had an over \$22 million budget for Fiscal Year 2022, with no rate increases for attorneys during that year. Increases for assigned counsel compensation were, and continue to be, a priority project for the agency.

With Covid 19 easing and the Judicial branch operating normally in the past fiscal year, assigned counsel are back in our courts daily across the state, and many have been handling trials that were delayed by the pandemic, in all our practice areas. This unusual spike in trial activity was felt by the assigned counsel as they continued to manage their cases, clients, and practices. Our assigned counsel should be commended for many of the terrific results they have had with trials, appeals, habeas matters, and child protection litigation during Fiscal Year 2022.

Also in Fiscal Year 2022, the Assigned Counsel Unit provided training for, attended by over 700 attorneys, both assigned counsel and agency attorneys, and members of the CT Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. These important trainings were also conducted by our assigned counsel attorneys, in the following training areas:

- Immigration
- Basics of Voir Dire
- JD Basics of practice
- GA Basics of Practice (held twice)

Remote Practice of Law
 Drugged DUI
 DUI Scientific Evidence and Cross Examination
 Guns for Lawyers
 Firearms ID and Ballistics
 Preserving Appellate Issues
 Juvenile Parole Hearings
 Child Protection Basics for Criminal Lawyers

Cases referred to assigned counsel

The total number of criminal, child protection and family AMC/GAL case assignments during FY22 was 20,942. The below charts show the distribution of the cases handled by assigned counsel during Fiscal year 2022. **In addition to below, assigned counsel handled daily coverage in magistrate courts statewide.**

CASE TYPE	TOTAL CASES ASSIGNED
JD Criminal	1074
GA Criminal	7821
Criminal Appellate	66
Habeas Corpus	191
Juvenile Delinquency	497
Total Criminal overall	9649

CHILD PROTECTION (CP)	TYPE OF CASE AND TOTALS
	CP Attorney
Child	4887
Mother	3244
Father	2369
Legal Guardian	153
Other	23
Attys for GAL	5
Total	10,681
	CP Guardian ad Litem
Child	203
Mother	40
Father	10
Legal Guardian	2
GALS on Delinquency	236
Total	491
	CP Appeal reviews (and Appeals (0))

Mother	49
Father	36
Legal Guardian	0
Total	85
OVERALL CHILD PROTECTION TOTAL	11,257

FAMILY STATERATE AMC/GAL	36
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TOTAL CASE ASSIGNMENTS FOR ASSIGNED COUNSEL IN FISCAL YEAR 2022: **20,942**

The 2021-2022 fiscal year was a time of significant change for the Training Department. A new Director of Training began in January 2022. In addition, as the Division has transformed to include so many new attorneys (about half of the attorneys joined the Division in or after 2020), the Department has also adjusted to provide various resources for the massive influx of less-experienced attorneys. In addition, the Department transitioned to offer assigned counsel access to significantly more of the trainings provided internally.

During the fiscal year, the Department developed, organized, and ran the following four significantly large trainings, each of which were attended by dozens of staff and took place over the course of months: Dialogues for Change (a racial equity training developed in collaboration with the Black Public Defender Association), a four-afternoon onboarding training for attorneys who joined the Division during the pandemic, the Leadership Certification Program (developing leadership skills to prepare the Division for further retirements), and Foundations of Trial Practice (a 4 day-long trial skills training to prepare attorneys for the return of trials). These trainings navigated the diminishing effects of the pandemic, with the latter two concluding with the return of lengthy in-person workshops and presentations.

The Training Department also provided six single-session trainings on discrete topics, such as wellness for attorneys, conducting legal research, and representing survivors of sexual assault. The Department also facilitated and sponsored several attorneys to a variety of external trainings, both in-person and remote, including sponsoring 10 attorneys to the renowned 2-week trial skills training run by the National Criminal Defense College, and the National Association for Public Defense's annual meeting.

In addition, the Training Department facilitated our Division's intern program and training for about 40 interns over the course of the fiscal year, and also organized the Division's annual day-long meeting, as well as a day-long sentencing seminar in conjunction with the Department of Correction.

Due to COVID 19 and absence of trials in criminal courts (habeas trials continued, though far fewer than usual), the number of appeals coming into LSU dropped significantly in 2020 and 2021. Now that trials have resumed, the numbers are picking back up again. By way of comparison, from July 1, 2021, to the end of June 2022, LSU opened approximately 83 new files (new criminal and habeas appeals). In the first five months of the new fiscal year (2022/2023), LSU has already opened approximately 69 new files and is on pace to open double the number of cases from 2021/2022.

While the number of appeals were fewer than usual, LSU attorneys were able to take a much more active role in supporting and assisting Division trial lawyers on myriad tasks, including serving as co-counsel at trial, drafting and arguing motions to suppress and other substantive motions, drafting jury instructions, and consulting and conducting research on dozens of other issues that have come up. Attorneys in LSU served as faculty in several Division trainings throughout the year and created and disseminated guides for analyzing legal issues that come up relating to searches of cell phones, DUIs, and NGRI cases. LSU attorneys have successfully represented multiple clients in juvenile parole hearings. LSU also continues to run the Quinnipiac School of Law criminal defense appellate clinic, and, in the last year, LSU attorneys taught law school courses in criminal procedure, advanced criminal procedure, and habeas corpus practice. Finally, LSU attorneys filed amicus briefs on behalf of the Division in two appeals this year, both of which presented and decided significant legal issues.

Of course, representing clients on appeal remains LSU's focus and mainstay. In addition to the parole and trial court acquittals and successes, LSU attorneys won some hard-fought successes on appeal this year and made favorable law in *State v. Haughwout*, 339 Conn. 747 (2021); *State v. Dawson*, 340 Conn. 136 (2021); *State v. Correa*, 340 Conn. 619 (2021); *State v. Daniels*, 342 Conn. 538 (2022); *State v. Police*, 343 Conn. 274 (2022); *State v. Schimanski*, 344 Conn. 435 (2022); *State v. Luciano*, 204 Conn. App. 388 (2021); *State v. Stephanie U.*, 206 Conn. App. 754 (2021); *State v. Wilson*, 209 Conn. App. 779 (2022); and *State v. Tony O.*, 214 Conn. App. 496 (2022).

The Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit investigates cases of wrongfully convicted individuals and seeks their exoneration. The Unit also represents individuals in other post-conviction matters, including litigating habeas claims, juvenile parole hearings, sentence modifications, and commutations. The Unit is also responsible for overseeing the caseload of Public Act 15-84 juvenile parole hearings, providing training and resources to attorneys who handle these matters, and serving as liaison between the Board of Parole and Pardons and inmates and their attorneys. Over the past fiscal year, the Unit has successfully represented several individuals in the aforementioned areas of practice. Three commutation hearings, now scheduled for the early part of the upcoming year, will be a first for the Unit.

The Business Information Systems department continues to provide DPDS employees with information necessary to assist with the effective representation of clients. The focus of this department this past year was to support the Division’s current case management system, Justware Defender, and begin the conversion to the new case management system named eDefender. An important component of the transition to the new system will be the training of all Division personnel as the new system will be a complete overhaul of the current one being used. Additionally, the department continues to work with CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Systems) as it begins to facilitate electronic dissemination of arrest paperwork from police departments to the courts within CISS.

JustWare Defender Case Management System

The Division’s current case management solution was completed on schedule and under budget in the Fall of 2015. It has been the most critical component of the strategic IT plan DPDS launched in 2013. Some of the features and capabilities include:

- a client-centered work environment
- more access for employees to the information they need to do their jobs
- access to vital caseload data for DPDS leadership that assists with resource allocation concerns
- an increase in the overall technological capabilities of the Division

CISS (CT Information Sharing System) Status

The Search functionality of the CISS application includes such sources as CRMVS, DOC, and other criminal justice agencies within the State. Access to the system was disseminated to a group of PDS employees that formerly used the State’s Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS). The focus for next year will be to send arrest information to courts from the local police departments, which will be available to DPDS. This unit is currently responsible for all efforts concerning this initiative. DPDS has been actively involved with the CISS effort since its inception in 2008 and will continue to play a role in its development.

Branch	Pending Cases 7/1/21	Cases Appointed 7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Cases Transferred 7/1/21-6/30/22	Transferred to AC 7/1/21 - 6/30/22	GAL 7/1/21-6/30/22	TOTAL
GA	45361	59740	13758	7821	-	99164
JD	2230	3172	948	1074	-	5528
Juvenile Delinquency	1276	2692	631	497	236	4070
Child Protection	248	313	1	10681	255	11496
Magistrate	87	25	6	0	-	106
Housing Courts	4	6	0	0	-	10
CTIP*	79	33	0	0	-	112
CTIP - Habeas	3943	181	0	191	-	4315
JPC	24	26	0	0	-	50
Appellate				66	-	66
TOTAL	53252	66188	15344	20330	491	124917
*Includes DOJ						

Office	Pending Cases 7/1/21	Cases Appointed 7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Cases Transferred 7/1/21-6/30/22	Transferred to AC 7/1/21 - 6/30/22	
GA					
GA 01 Stamford	1888	1679	575	7821	
GA 02 Bridgeport	5573	6424	1167		
GA 03 Danbury	1813	1563	366		
GA 04 Waterbury	4072	4355	968		
GA 05 Derby	1677	1713	492		
GA 07 Meriden	2005	3444	712		
GA 09 Middletown	1068	1782	772		
GA 10 New London	3019	3375	1030		
GA 11 Danielson	1755	1930	381		
GA 12 Manchester	1897	3011	1101		
GA 13 Enfield	736	1306	489		
GA 14 Hartford	3999	5631	936		
Hartford Community Court	180	704	42		
GA 15 New Britain	3071	6552	1091		
GA 18 Torrington	1676	2106	786		
GA 19 Rockville	1167	1337	310		
GA 20 Norwalk	1486	1278	476		
GA 21 Norwich	1734	2163	553		
GA 22 Milford	708	1482	415		
GA 23 New Haven	5837	7905	1096		
GA TOTALS	45361	59740	13758		7821
JD					
Ansonia/Milford JD	119	196	62		1074
Danbury JD	264	144	62		
Fairfield JD	239	468	65		
Hartford JD	263	410	52		
Middletown JD	28	71	36		
New Britain JD	150	227	53		
New Haven JD	382	611	297		
New London JD	187	285	67		
Stamford JD	92	141	87		
Tolland JD	56	99	13		
Torrington JD	145	185	107		
Waterbury JD	251	275	38		
Windham JD	54	60	9		
JD TOTALS	2230	3172	948	1074	

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY				
Bridgeport Juvenile	147	354	122	
Hartford Juvenile	169	326	111	
Middletown Juvenile	33	99	27	
New Britain Juvenile	111	296	38	
New Haven Juvenile	333	590	86	
Rockville Juvenile	102	103	18	497
Stamford Juvenile	45	113	36	
Torrington Juvenile	52	66	7	
Waterbury Juvenile	141	411	82	
Waterford Juvenile	72	226	57	
Willimantic Juvenile	71	108	47	
JUVENILE TOTALS	1276	2692	631	497
CHILD PROTECTION				
Bridgeport Juvenile	114	104	1	
Hartford Juvenile	16	55	0	
Middletown Juvenile	1	1	0	
New Britain Juvenile	2	1	0	
New Haven Juvenile	20	7	0	
Rockville Juvenile	0	0	0	
Stamford Juvenile	0	13	0	
Torrington Juvenile	0	0	0	
Waterbury Juvenile	32	28	0	
Waterford Juvenile	63	103	0	
Willimantic Juvenile	0	1	0	
JUVENILE TOTALS	248	313	1	0
MAGISTRATE				
Bridgeport Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Danbury Support Enforcement	3	0	0	
Hartford Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Middletown Support Enforcement	1	0	0	
New Britain Support Enforcement	47	6	1	
New Haven Support Enforcement	14	13	1	
Norwich Support Enforcement	22	0	0	
Putnam Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Rockville Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Stamford Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Waterbury Support Enforcement	0	6	4	
MAGISTRATE TOTALS	87	25	6	0
HOUSING COURTS				
Bridgeport Housing Court	0	1	0	
Hartford Housing Court	0	0	0	
New Britain Housing Court	0	0	0	
New Haven Housing Court	4	5	0	
Norwalk Housing Court	0	0	0	
Waterbury Housing Court	0	0	0	
HOUSING COURTS TOTALS	4	6	0	0

2021-2022
Public Defender Services Commission

Member

Atty. Allison Near, Chair
Hon. Laura Baldini
Atty. G. Kenneth Bernhard
Hon. William Dyson
Aimee Golbert, LCSW

Hon. Kevin Russo
Vacant

Appointing Authority

Governor
Chief Justice
Senate Minority Leader
House Republican Leader
Senate President Pro
Tempore
Chief Justice
Speaker of the House