

2024

The Annual Report of the Chief Public Defender

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services

John R. Day, Esq., Acting Chief Public Defender



**Connecticut
Public
Defenders**

equality | justice | community

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John R. Day, Esq.,
Acting Chief Public Defender

During FY 2024, the Division of Public Defender Services staff continued to work tirelessly in pursuit of its mission statement:

Striving to ensure justice and a fair and unbiased system, the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services zealously promotes and protects the rights, liberty and dignity of all clients entrusted to us. We are committed to holistic representation that recognizes clients as individuals, fosters trust, and prevents unnecessary and wrongful conviction.

The work done by our dedicated attorneys, social workers, investigators, support staff, and managers reflects their commitment to this mission and the needs of the Division's clients.

The Division achieved a significant success during the year in the Charles William Coleman case. The Connecticut Innocence Project exhausted innumerable hours during the 2023/24 year preparing and litigating the matter, ultimately securing Mr. Coleman's release from state custody on July 18, 2024. This result was made possible using the updated and much more accurate modern DNA analysis applied to Mr. Coleman's evidence compared to the analysis used during his initial prosecution in 1986.

Effective April 5, 2024, the Public Defender Services Commission approved increasing its income eligibility levels from 200% to 225% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. At the same time, the Commission also approved an increase to 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines effective January 1, 2025. In preparation for this increase in eligibility for the appointment of a public defender, the agency was able to hire fellowship attorneys pending their successful passing of the bar examination and admission to the Connecticut bar. Approximately 30 staff (including attorneys and support staff) were hired as the Division prepared for an increase in eligible clients.

We express continued gratitude to the six members of the Public Defender Services Commission: The Honorable Justice Richard Palmer (Chair), The Honorable Sheila Pratts, The Honorable Elliot Solomon, Attorney Michael Jefferson, The Honorable Russell Morin, and Attorney Herman Woodard. The agency appreciates the commitment, guidance, and oversight of these dedicated volunteers.



The Division of Public Defender Services is an agency of the State of Connecticut, established by Chapter 887 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The policy-making and appointing authority for the Division is the Public Defender Services Commission. The seven members of the Commission are appointed for three-year terms, in accordance with C.G.S. §51-289, by the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President Pro Tempore, and the House of Representatives Minority and Majority Leaders. The current members of the Commission are listed on page 3 along with their appointing authorities.

As established by statute, the Division is made up of three separate components: a Commission responsible for policy making, appointments of all personnel, and compensation matters; an Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) charged with statewide administration of the public defender system and the provision of specialized legal representation; and the individual public defender offices providing legal services throughout the State to indigent persons accused of crimes as required by both the United States and Connecticut Constitutions.

C.G.S. §51-291(m), C.G.S., specifies that the Commission is an “autonomous body within the Judicial Department for fiscal and budgetary purposes only.” As such, the Commission is part of the Judicial Department but is otherwise autonomous within that branch of state government. All attorneys and other employees of the Division are appointed by the Public Defender Services Commission. The Commission also establishes the compensation plan for the Division, approves certain expenditures, and establishes policies and procedures relating to the operation of the Division.

The chief administrative officer for the Division, appointed by the Commission, is Acting Chief Public Defender Attorney John R. Day. The duties of the Chief Public Defender are specified in C.G.S. §51-291 and include supervision of all personnel and operations of the Division, training of all attorneys and support staff, and preparation of all grant and budget requests for approval by the Commission and submission to the Governor.

Management and administration of the Division is carried out by the Office of Chief Public Defender, located at 55 Farmington Avenue, 8th Floor, in Hartford. In FY 2024, administrative staff consisted of the Director of Training; Director of Assigned Counsel; Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection; Legal Counsel (Director); Financial Director; Director of Human Resources; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Directory; Chief Investigator; Chief Social Worker; three Managers (Administrative Services, Information System, and Information Technology); and additional administrative and secretarial staff.



The following chart shows the breakdown of staff by position category:

STAFF AS OF 10/1/2024

	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL
ATTORNEYS	238		238
SUPPORT STAFF	73	3	76
ADMINISTRATION	24		24
INVESTIGATORS	60		60
SOCIAL WORKERS	44		44
	439	3	442

Public Defender services are provided to indigent adult and juvenile clients throughout Connecticut at field offices and in specialized units. Pursuant to C.G.S. §51-296, public defenders may be appointed to represent individuals in any criminal action, any habeas corpus proceeding arising from a criminal matter, any extradition proceeding, or in any delinquency matter.

Representation is provided to clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, appeals, and post-conviction matters; clients acquitted by reason of insanity before the Psychiatric Security Review Board; certain clients subject to Risk Protection Orders; children and parties in child protection matters; children in contested family court custody cases; and respondents in contempt and paternity cases in family support matters.

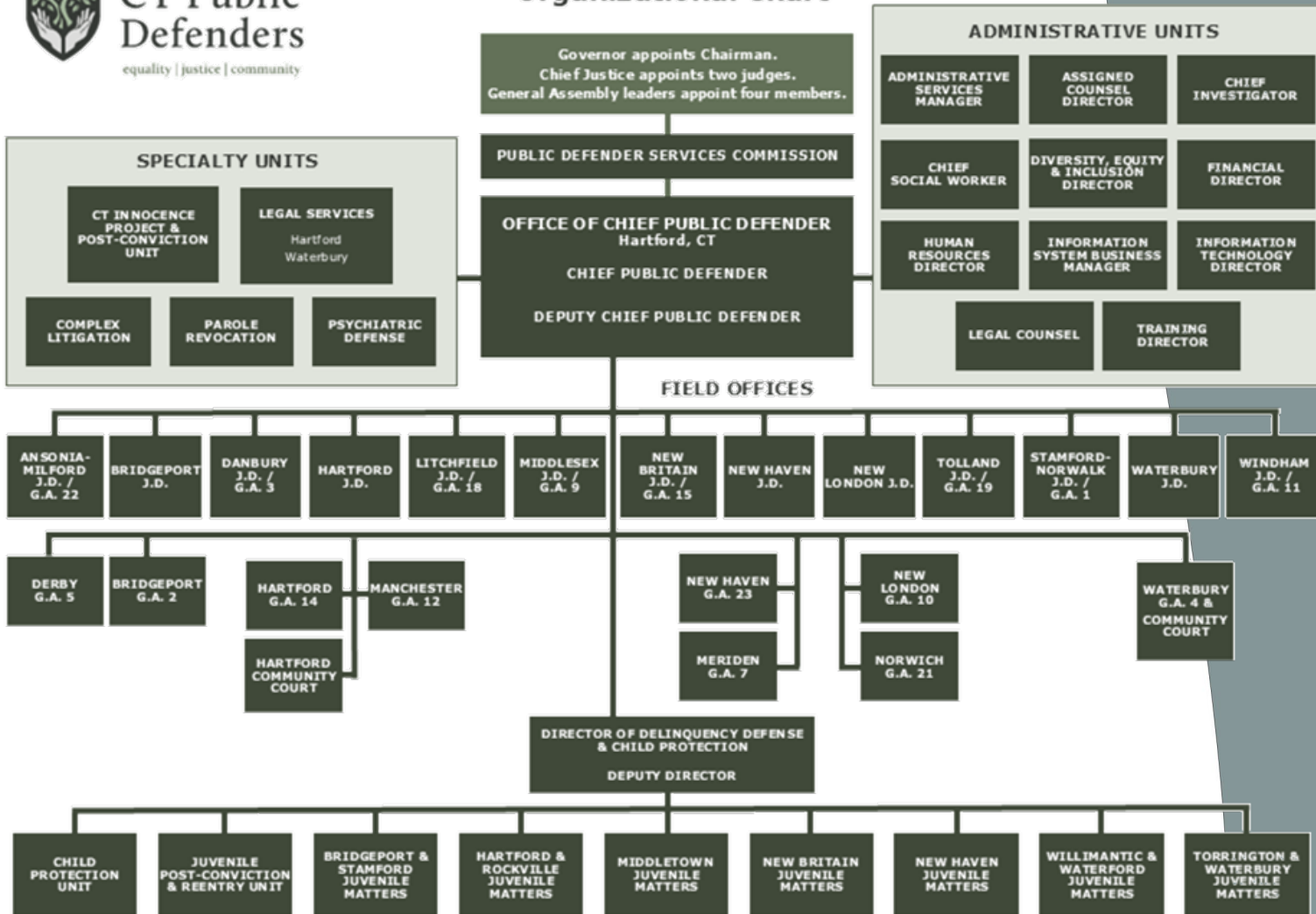
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION 2023/2024

MEMBER	Appointed By
HON. RICHARD N. PALMER (CHAIR)	Governor
MICHAEL JEFFERSON, ESQ.	Senate President Pro Tempore
VACANT	Senate Minority Leader
HON. RUSSELL MORIN	Speaker of the House
HERMAN WOODARD, JR., ESQ.	House Minority Leader
HON. ELLIOT N. SOLOMON	Chief Justice
HON. SHEILA M. PRATS	Chief Justice





Organizational Chart



EMPLOYEE HIRES	
Hire	
Attorneys	26
Investigators	3
Social Workers	2
Support Staff	13
TOTAL	44
Promotion to Vacancy	
Public Defender	1
Supervisory Assistant Public Defender	2
Support Staff	
TOTAL	3

EMPLOYEE SEPARATIONS	
Discharge	1
Resigned/ Transferred to another Agency	15
Retirement	10
TOTAL	26



Workforce Analysis

This comparison is based on the Division's employees as of October 1, 2024. Workforce availability figures are based on the 2014-2018 American Community Survey as reportable by the U.S. Census Bureau for the State of Connecticut.

MALES

OFFICIALS/ ADMINISTRATORS (29)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	12	41.4%	47.4%
HISPANIC/LATINO	2	6.9%	3.6%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	4	13.8%	2.4%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.1%
ASIAN	1	3.4%	3.3%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	0	0.0%	0.7%

FEMALES

			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
	9	31.0%	34.1%
	0	0.0%	3.4%
	0	0.0%	2.6%
	0	0.0%	0.1%
	1	3.4%	1.8%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.6%

MALES

PROFESSIONALS (271)			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
WHITE	101	37.3%	33.0%
HISPANIC/LATINO	2	0.7%	2.8%
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN	4	1.5%	2.7%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	0	0.0%	0.0%
ASIAN	1	0.4%	4.4%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.0%	0.0%
TWO OR MORE RACES	3	1.1%	0.7%

FEMALES

			WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
	123	45.4%	44.3%
	5	1.8%	3.9%
	25	9.2%	4.1%
	1	0.4%	0.1%
	3	1.1%	3.2%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	3	1.1%	0.8%



MALES

PROTECTIVE SERVICE WORKERS (NON-SWORN) (59)
WHITE
HISPANIC/LATINO
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE
ASIAN
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
TWO OR MORE RACES

		WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
15	25.4%	30.6%
10	16.9%	6.8%
2	3.4%	4.9%
0	0.0%	0.0%
0	0.0%	1.5%
0	0.0%	0.0%
0	0.0%	3.4%

FEMALES

		WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
23	40.0%	30.1%
4	6.8%	10.5%
5	8.5%	8.6%
0	0.0%	0.3%
0	0.0%	0.1%
0	0.0%	0.0%
0	0.0%	3.1%

MALES

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (83)
WHITE
HISPANIC/LATINO
BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE
ASIAN
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
TWO OR MORE RACES

		WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
3	3.6%	26.2%
2	2.4%	4.3%
1	1.2%	3.3%
1	1.2%	0.0%
1	1.2%	1.5%
0	0.0%	0.0%
0	0.0%	0.6%

FEMALES

		WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY
35	42.2%	45.9%
23	27.7%	8.5%
11	13.3%	6.4%
0	0.0%	0.1%
2	2.4%	0.0%
0	0.0%	0.0%
4	4.8%	1.0%

SUMMARY OF WORKFORCE		
TOTAL MALES	165	37.3%
TOTAL FEMALES	277	62.7%
TOTAL MINORITY	96	21.7%
TOTAL MINORITY FEMALES	62	14.0%
TOTAL MINORITY MALES	34	7.7%



Total Fiscal Year Caseload

Branch	Pending Cases 7/1/23	Total New Cases 7/1/23-6/30/24 (Appointed - Removed = New Cases)			Assigned Counsel 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Guardian ad Litem 7/1/23- 6/30/24	TOTAL
		Cases Appointed	Cases Removed	Total New Cases			
GA	43351	53855	9215	44640	7293	-	95284
JD	2542	2567	790	1777	864	-	5183
Juvenile Delinquency	1536	2470	600	1870	780	374	4560
Child Protection	479	370	20	350	11607	243	12679
Juvenile Post-Conviction	42	22	0	22	0	-	64
Magistrate	81	62	18	44	0	-	125
Housing Courts	10	4	0	4	0	-	14
Parole Revocation Unit	220	547	0	547	0	-	767
CT Innocence Project & Post-Conviction	See page 14.						
Appellate	See page 16.						
						TOTAL	118676*

* Plus CTIP/Post-Conviction and Appellate cases.



Cases by Office/Unit

Office	Pending Cases 7/1/23	Cases Appointed 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Cases Removed 7/1/23-6/30/24	Assigned Counsel 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	
GA					
GA 01 Stamford	3400	3398	937	7293	
GA 02 Bridgeport	5577	4934	824		
GA 03 Danbury	1158	1588	209		
GA 04 Waterbury	4232	4026	625		
GA 05 Derby	1358	1613	393		
GA 07 Meriden	1782	2923	34		
GA 09 Middletown	1126	1301	273		
GA 10 New London	2842	2751	710		
GA 11 Danielson	1700	2019	402		
GA 12 Manchester	1203	2493	598		
GA 14 Hartford	4675	6468	658		
Hartford Community Court	744	1555	299		
GA 15 New Britain	4021	5179	1052		
GA 18 Torrington	1450	1766	624		
GA 19 Rockville	963	1180	280		
GA 21 Norwich	1660	2743	547		
GA 22 Milford	851	1477	278		
GA 23 New Haven	4609	6441	472		
GA TOTALS	43351	53855	9215		7293
JD					
Ansonia/Milford JD	171	139	47	864	
Danbury JD	106	73	23		
Fairfield JD	319	362	57		
Hartford JD	400	384	40		
Middletown JD	41	44	13		
New Britain JD	176	152	53		
New Haven JD	527	577	348		
New London JD	182	198	21		
Stamford JD	115	37	7		
Tolland JD	58	67	23		
Torrington JD	90	172	50		
Waterbury JD	291	269	67		
Windham JD	66	93	41		
JD TOTALS	2542	2567	790		864



Cases by Office/Unit (cont.)

Office	Pending Cases 7/1/23	Cases Appointed 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Cases Removed 7/1/23-6/30/24	Assigned Counsel 7/1/23 - 6/30/24
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY				
Bridgeport Juvenile	169	362	25	780
Hartford Juvenile	245	428	145	
Middletown Juvenile	78	177	44	
New Britain Juvenile	183	314	118	
New Haven Juvenile	355	537	81	
Stamford Juvenile	78	17	2	
Torrington Juvenile	32	66	11	
Waterbury Juvenile	188	297	57	
Waterford Juvenile	159	197	85	
Willimantic Juvenile	49	75	32	
JUVENILE TOTALS	1536	2470	600	780
CHILD PROTECTION				
Bridgeport Juvenile	150	102	0	-
Hartford Juvenile	85	74	1	
Middletown Juvenile	2	2	0	
New Britain Juvenile	15	22	0	
New Haven Juvenile	25	14	0	
Stamford Juvenile	18	0	0	
Torrington Juvenile	0	3	0	
Waterbury Juvenile	64	11	0	
Waterford Juvenile	120	139	19	
Willimantic Juvenile	0	3	0	
CHILD PROTECTION TOTALS	479	370	20	



Cases by Office/Unit (cont.)

Office	Pending Cases 7/1/23	Cases Appointed 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Cases Removed 7/1/23-6/30/24	Assigned Counsel 7/1/23 - 6/30/24
JUVENILE POST-CONVICTION				
Bridgeport Juvenile	2	2	0	-
Hartford Juvenile	2	2	0	
Middletown Juvenile	3	2	0	
New Britain Juvenile	4	4	0	
New Haven Juvenile	13	6	0	
Stamford Juvenile	1	1	0	
Torrington Juvenile	0	0	0	
Waterbury Juvenile	2	2	0	
Waterford Juvenile	3	3	0	
Willimantic Juvenile	0	0	0	
Juvenile Post-Conviction Unit	12	0	0	
JUVENILE POST-CONVICTION TOTALS	42	22	0	
MAGISTRATE				
Bridgeport Support Enforcement	0	0	0	-
Danbury Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Hartford Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Middletown Support Enforcement	1	0	0	
New Britain Support Enforcement	36	1	0	
New Haven Support Enforcement	21	57	17	
Norwich Support Enforcement	22	4	1	
Putnam Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Rockville Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Stamford Support Enforcement	0	0	0	
Waterbury Support Enforcement	1	0	0	
MAGISTRATE TOTALS	81	62	18	
HOUSING COURTS				
Bridgeport Housing Court	1	0	0	-
Hartford Housing Court	0	0	0	
New Britain Housing Court	0	0	0	
New Haven Housing Court	9	4	0	
Norwalk Housing Court	0	0	0	
Waterbury Housing Court	0	0	0	
HOUSING COURTS TOTALS	10	4	0	0



Assigned Counsel

The assigned counsel unit assigned, tracked, and managed 22,607 cases in FY 2024, along with over 320 independently contracting attorneys in the following practice areas:

Criminal

- Criminal Part A/JD - A and B felony charges
- Criminal Part B/GA - B, C, D and unclassified felonies; misdemeanor charges
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Habeas Corpus/Post-Conviction
- Criminal Appeals

Child Welfare

- Child Protection (parents and children)
- Staterate Family AMC/GAL (children)
- Child Protection Appeals and Appeal Reviews
- Family Support Magistrate Contempt and Paternity

The unit implemented a 35% pay increase in all practice areas for assigned counsel and accepted applications from interested and qualified attorneys throughout the fiscal year instead of during a limited two-week period. There were more applications than previous years, although there are continued delays in assigning cases and other concerns related to low pay and attrition with experienced attorneys.

The assigned counsel unit managed a line item in the Division budget of over \$33 million dollars to pay for the above. This funding pays for the cases in the following chart. In criminal matters, cases are sent to the assigned counsel unit from field offices when there is a conflict and/or overflow. In child welfare matters, cases are assigned upon notice from the courts that counsel has been appointed for a party in a case.



The breakdown of cases assigned by practice area, along with the total number of cases assigned, is as follows:

CRIMINAL MATTERS TOTAL	9639
GA/PART B	7293
JD/PART A	864
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	780
HABEAS CORPUS AND POST-CONVICTION	528
CRIMINAL APPEALS	174
CHILD WELFARE MATTERS TOTAL	12968
TOTAL OF ALL FY CHILD PROTECTION ASSIGNMENTS	12934
CHILD	5453
MOM	3740
DAD	2816
LEGAL GUARDIAN	171
OTHER	44
ATTORNEY FOR GAL	20
APPEAL, APPEAL REVIEW	73
GAL ON CHILD PROTECTION CASES	243
GAL ON DELINQUENCY MATTERS	374
AMC/GAL APPOINTMENTS	34
TOTAL CHILD PROTECTION + CRIMINAL	22607

Delinquency Defense and Child Protection

The Office of the Chief Public Defender Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit operates under the supervision of the Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection. This unit manages delinquency defense, child protection and family matters representation, training, and policy development.

Staffing

Across the state, the unit is staffed by:

- Administration
 - One Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection
 - One Deputy Director of Delinquency Defense
 - Four Parent Defense Assistant Public Defenders, One Shared
 - Three Paralegals
- Family AMC/GAL
 - 23 Individual attorneys and firms contracted for staterate AMC/GAL appointments



- Ten Juvenile Field Offices
 - Six Supervisory Assistant Public Defenders
 - 11 Assistant Public Defenders, One shared
 - Six Investigators
 - Six Fulltime Social Workers
 - Seven Administrative Staff

Juvenile Field Office Caseload

- 2470 delinquency appointments
- 22 delinquency post-convictions
- 404 child protection appointments

Child Protection Caseload

- 87 Assigned Counsel
- 9 Appellate Assigned Counsel
- 12,149 Appointments
- 75 Appeal Reviews

The Office of the Chief Public Defender Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit continued its successful work as an integral member of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), serving on several workgroups to address racial/ethnic disparity in the system, improve conditions of confinement, increase diversion, and reduce recidivism.

This unit also continued its participation in statewide Racial and Ethnic Diversity (RED) workgroups to address overrepresentation and equity issues in both the youth justice and child welfare systems.

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 training programs during FY 2024. These included, but were not limited to, mandatory pre-service training for all new child welfare attorneys, pretrial motions practice in child abuse and neglect proceedings, use of experts in child protection cases, and student mental health, truancy and school discipline.

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. In addition, we remained actively involved in representing indigent clients in parentage proceedings and those who are at risk of incarceration in Family Support Magistrate



Court. We also advocated for policy and legislative reform in this area to promote fairness and address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact our clients.

Connecticut Innocence Project / Post-Conviction Unit

The Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit (CTIP) consists of six attorneys, three investigators, two paralegals, and a secretary, all located at the Office of the Chief Public Defender in Hartford. The Unit investigates cases of wrongfully convicted individuals and seeks their exoneration. The Unit focuses principally on the identification and litigation, where necessary, of claims of actual innocence or constitutionally flawed convictions. The Unit also reviews and processes all pro se habeas matters filed with the court for referral to the assigned counsel unit. Additionally, the Unit is responsible for overseeing the caseload of Public Act 15-84 and Public Act 23-169 juvenile parole hearings and providing training to attorneys who handle these matters.

Caseload Movement

CTIP Cases

Cases pending 1 st day of FY	28
Cases opened	42
Cases closed	44
Cases pending last day of FY	35

Habeas Cases

Habeas cases received from Court	193
Habeas cases processed	193
Habeas cases to assigned counsel unit	181

Juvenile Parole Cases

PA 15-84	
Cases assigned	19
Hearings conducted	22
Parole granted	15
Parole denied	2
Rehearing	5
PA 23-169	
Cases assigned	54
Hearings conducted	0



Major Developments

Release of Charles William Coleman

On July 18, 2024, Mr. Charles William Coleman, age 65, walked out of New Haven Superior Court after serving 38 years out of a total effective sentence of 170 years. The convictions in two separate sexual assault cases were vacated and the charges dismissed as a result of new DNA testing.

In each incident, the perpetrator entered the female victim's apartment in the middle of the night with a knife or sharp object and committed the sexual assault. The victim in each incident was unable to provide an identification of the perpetrator. The perpetrator in each incident acted alone.

In the first incident (March 4, 1986), Mr. Coleman was convicted after trial based on a partial palm print found on interior flap of an envelope found within the apartment. There was no DNA evidence presented as the sexual assault kit was thought to have been destroyed prior to trial. A 110-year prison sentence was imposed. In May of 2024, the sexual assault kit was found, and modern DNA testing eliminated Mr. Coleman as the contributor/perpetrator.

In the second incident (July 7, 1986), Mr. Coleman was convicted after trial based on a fingerprint found on the exterior of the victim's bedroom windowsill (not the point of entry) and primitive DNA testing (HLA-DQ-alpha) which included Mr. Coleman as a contributor along with 15% of the black population. A 40-year sentence was imposed. In July of 2023, CTIP discovered that samples from the sexual assault kit existed at the state laboratory and requested modern DNA testing on the materials, which eliminated Mr. Coleman as the contributor/perpetrator.

The partial palm print and fingerprint evidence in the above incidents remain unexplained and most likely will result in future litigation. On August 6, 2024, the aforementioned cases regarding Mr. Charles William Coleman were listed on The National Registry of Exonerations.

HLA-DQ-ALPHA Review

In July of this year, as a result of the Charles William Coleman matter, CTIP agreed to consult with the Conviction Integrity Unit of the Connecticut State Division of Criminal Justice Division and the Connecticut Division of Scientific Services in initiating a review of the cases of currently incarcerated individuals wherein HLA-DQ-alpha DNA testing was a primary contributor to the conviction.



State v. Tatum

CTIP joined the Innocence Project (New York) as amicus in *Tatum v. Commissioner of Correction*, 349 Conn. 733 (2024), wherein the Connecticut Supreme Court held that a new constitutional rule of criminal procedure applies retroactively on collateral review if it resulted from developments in science that cause reevaluation of fundamental judicial principles, significantly improve conviction accuracy, and the petitioner advocated for it in prior proceedings. The Court further held that principles regarding the admissibility of eyewitness identification evidence apply retroactively.

Juvenile Parole (P.A. 15-84 and P.A. 23-169)

The unit continues to manage the litigation of parole hearings mandated by Public Act 15-84 and now has the added responsibility of coordinating the parole hearings mandated by Public Act 23-169. These hearings litigate the appropriateness of sentences imposed on juvenile defendants pursuant to the United States Court rulings in *Miller v. Alabama* and *Graham v. Florida*. The hearings are conducted by CTIP staff, agency lawyers, and assigned counsel, all assisted by experts including agency social workers and investigators. Nineteen PA 15-84 cases were assigned to attorneys during FY 2024. Twenty-two hearings were conducted, resulting in 15 parole grants, two denials, and five rehearings. Fifty-four PA 23-169 cases were assigned to attorneys during FY 2024 and await hearings. The unit continues to organize and conduct legal training for staff and assigned counsel in these cases.

Professional Development

All attorneys are in compliance with the Practice Book requirements regarding Continuing Legal Education. Two CTIP attorneys were able to participate in the annual three-day Innocence Network Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The unit was able to sponsor two exonerees to attend the conference, Adam Carmon and Leroy Harris. Unit staff have served as faculty in numerous training programs, including Habeas Trial Skills, Voir Dire, Miller-Graham Hearing Representation, and DefenderLab Trial School.

Legal Services Unit

The Legal Services Unit (LSU) was appointed and opened new files in approximately 254 cases during this fiscal year. The appeals were pretty evenly divided between cases coming from criminal courts (124) and from habeas court (130). This is a significant increase from the previous two years, where the total for 2021-2022 was under 100, and the total for 2022-2023 was well under 200. We are



returning to, and in some categories exceeding, pre-COVID numbers due to the number of trials now taking place. During this fiscal year, we assigned approximately 176 appeals (78 criminal, 98 habeas) to assigned counsel, not counting certified appeals to the Supreme Court where assigned counsel stayed on after the Appellate Court case.

Combining the Hartford and Waterbury locations, LSU is staffed with 18 people:

- Chief of Legal Services
- Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
- Ten staff attorneys (nine attorneys for most of the fiscal year)
- Four paralegals
- One administrative assistant
- One part-time secretary

Due to retirements in the past couple of years, there are many fresh faces in LSU. Eight attorneys and three of our staff members have been with LSU for fewer than five years. Six of those eleven have been with the Division for fewer than two years.

Ten LSU attorneys filed 54 briefs and conducted 19 oral arguments during this fiscal year. There were 18 reported decisions in our cases – three of them wins.

LSU has always made itself available in some way to our field/trial offices, but we have worked hard in recent years to increase our level of visibility, availability, and support to our colleagues. There is now an official form for requesting LSU consultation, brainstorming, research, and support. For this fiscal year, LSU attorneys responded to approximately 140 requests from the field.

During the academic year of 2023-2024, three of our lawyers taught the criminal defense appellate clinic at Quinnipiac School of Law and University of Connecticut School of Law, supervising ten students handling five appeals.

LSU attorneys and one of our paralegals prepared for parole hearings in eight cases for people who were under the age of 18 at the time of their offense. Our attorneys also served as faculty in Division training programs, including DefenderLab, Changing Lanes, and trainings on the Fourth Amendment, DUI, and arraignment.

Finally, LSU continued its tradition, which began in the summer of 2021, of issuing a quarterly newsletter to the Division covering emerging legal issues and ideas for litigation.



Complex Litigation Unit

The Complex Litigation Unit (CLU) is staffed with a Director, Senior Assistant Public Defender, Investigator III, and a Paralegal Specialist II. Additionally, the expectation is that the Unit will grow by at least two additional attorneys in order to expand our ability to provide trial support and "boots on the ground" assistance to GA attorneys, continue to handle major felony cases, and continue to provide consultations in the area of DNA and cell phone forensic evidence.

CLU has been involved in training and litigating cases across the state. Below is a highlight of CLU's work this past year.

Consultations: CLU has engaged in 27 DNA consultations as well as assisting in numerous GA and JD cases across the state.

Trials: CLU tried two JD cases (murder and sexual assault) and earned a dismissal in a separate JD cold-case murder prosecution.

Presentations: CLU staff served as faculty in numerous training programs, including Changing Lanes, DefenderLab, New Attorney Onboarding (Discovery, Objections, Financial Eligibility Investigations, Arraignment), the 4th Amendment and Motor Vehicle Stops, Division's Annual Meeting (Cell Towers, Geo Time, & Cellebrite), NOIA Presentations (DNA, How to Navigate Investigation after COVID, How to Read and Create a Cellebrite Report, Introductions to Investigations), a Quinnipiac School of Law presentation (Cellebrite and Cell Phone Forensics), New Case Review, and a UCONN Law presentation (Advanced Investigations).

UCONN Law School partnership: The Director of CLU continued to co-teach the Criminal Defense Clinic, and members of CLU participated in Clinic training and field supervision.

Training Unit

The Training Department continued to focus on assisting the significant number of attorneys who recently joined the Division. The Department consists of an administrative assistant, an attorney, and the Director of Training.

New Attorney Onboarding Training

The Department continued to provide its monthly onboarding training program to a class of about 30 new attorneys. This program involves a full-day in-person seminar once a month for eleven months. Each seminar focuses on a different specific topic



essential to providing an exceptional level of representation for our clients, and the training program utilizes a heavy focus on practicing skills in workshops. On top of that, this year we developed a packet of materials that we began providing to all new attorneys that is designed to equip them with everything they need to know in order to provide competent representation in the complex field of criminal defense. And, we continued to run DefenderLab, our annual residential week-long basic trial skills training, the feedback from which was once again overwhelmingly positive this year.

Division-Wide Trainings

We provided 13 virtual trainings over the course of the year that addressed various timely topics. These trainings were each attended by around 60 individuals on average, and we continue to disseminate recordings of the trainings. Of particular note, we designed and provided training and resources for attorneys on how to handle risk protection order hearings, as we began to represent our clients in those proceedings this year. We additionally provided four separate day-long in-person seminars that examined mental health first aid, cross-examination in DUI cases, sentence calculation and early release options, and habeas petition trial skills.

We also continued to sponsor a large number of attorneys to out-of-state and in-state trainings provided by other organizations that equipped our attorneys with special expertise in specific areas, including blockchain analysis, forensic DNA analysis, and defending sexual assault cases. In total, we were able to sponsor 19 Division members to attend out-of-state trainings and 59 attorneys to attend in-state trainings offered by other organizations.

We additionally organized a highly successful annual meeting at the University of St. Joseph, the first in-person training-focused annual meeting since the pandemic, which included a number of training opportunities for not only attorneys, but also social workers, investigators, and administrative staff. Approximately 275 Division employees attended, and the feedback on the program was excellent.

Finally, we continued to administer the Division's intern program, facilitating 74 interns during the fiscal year.

Racial Equity Training

In the prior fiscal year, we began rolling out a significant racial equity training to all of the Division. This year, we provided six more runs of the seven-week training. By the end of the fiscal year, we had provided the training to approximately 75% of the Division's employees, keeping us on track for the original goal of completing the Division-wide rollout in December 2024.



Parole Revocation Unit

The Parole Revocation Unit (PRU) is located in Waterbury at 55 West Main Street, 4th floor, directly below the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Presently, the office consists of four attorneys, two secretaries, a social worker, an investigator, and a paralegal. PRU was established in 2019 to provide representation for individuals in parole revocation proceedings. The attorneys are responsible for appearing before the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) on behalf of their clients in Preliminary hearings, Revocation hearings, and Supplemental hearings.

There are three main types of revocation proceedings:

1. Technical violations involve allegations that the parolee has not complied with some aspects of their parole conditions.
2. Absconders are individuals who are absent without permission from a halfway house or other authorized placement.
3. Criminal violations are those stemming from a newly charged criminal offense.

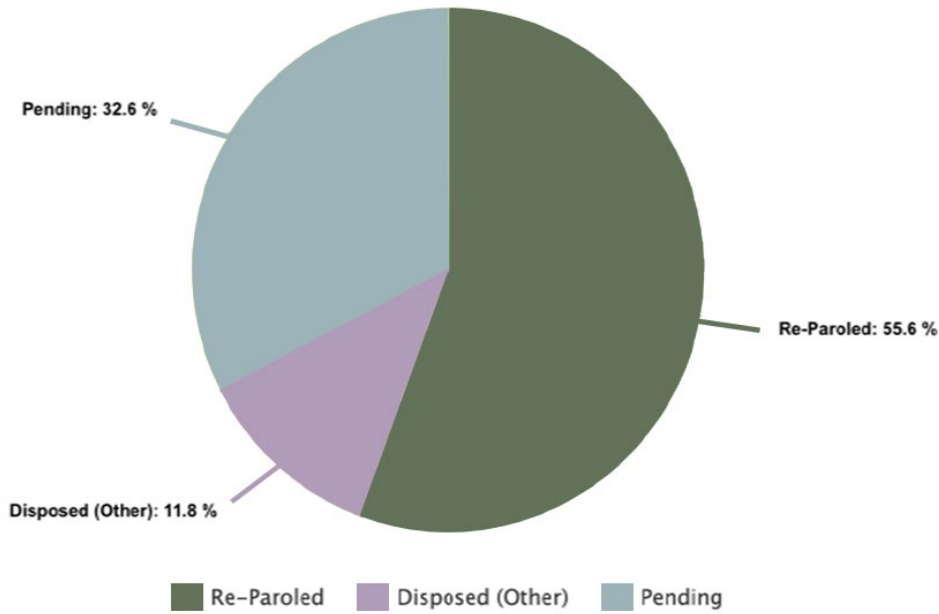
PRU receives referrals for new clients from the BOPP and from the various field offices throughout the state if the client has a new criminal/motor vehicle matter. Any parolee who has received a "Notice of Parole Violation" form from their parole officer may apply for representation by the Parole Revocation Unit.

PRU collaborates and consults with both Public Defenders and private attorneys on matters where clients are on special parole, discretionary parole, and interstate parole. In collaborating with attorneys, PRU provides advice as to the possible parole consequences as it relates to pending and disposed of criminal/motor vehicle matters. Lastly, PRU acts as a resource to Public Defender field offices when clients are on community release, transitional supervision, or transfer parole.

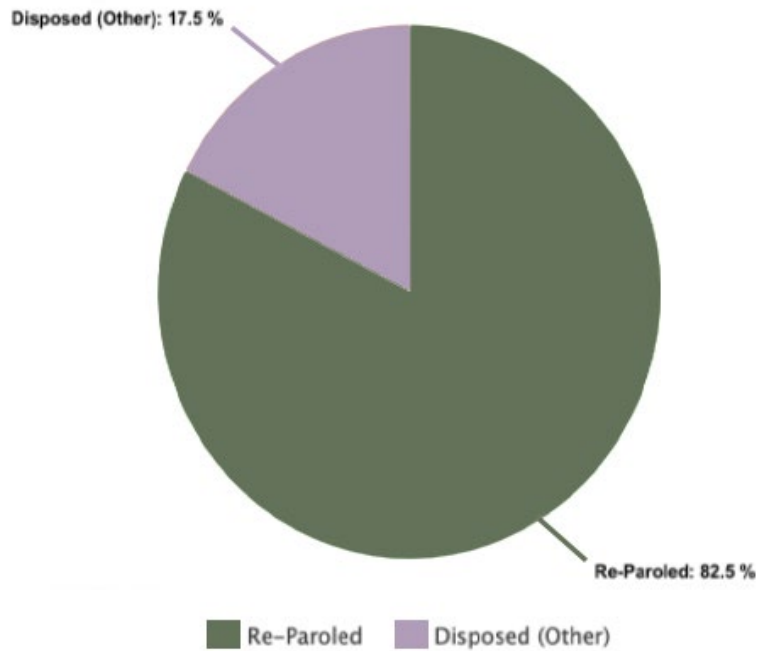
As of the close of this fiscal year, PRU was appointed in 552 cases and disposed of 372 cases. During this time, of the 552 cases where PRU was appointed, 55.6% were re-paroled back into the community while 32.6% remain pending and 11.8% were disposed of in other ways. Of the cases that were disposed of, 82.5% of clients represented by PRU were re-paroled back into the community. PRU successfully secured parole reinstatement in 12 cases at the Preliminary hearing stage. In addition, PRU secured the withdrawal of 5 reimprisonment warrants for clients due to diversionary programs being granted in criminal courts. The withdrawal of a reimprisonment warrant results in the client being released into the community without having to go through the revocation process. Lastly, 14 clients were reinstated to parole after completing the Time Out Program, a diversionary program for parolees within the Department of Corrections.



FY 2024 – Parole Revocation Unit Cases



FY 2024 – Parole Revocation Unit Cases Disposed

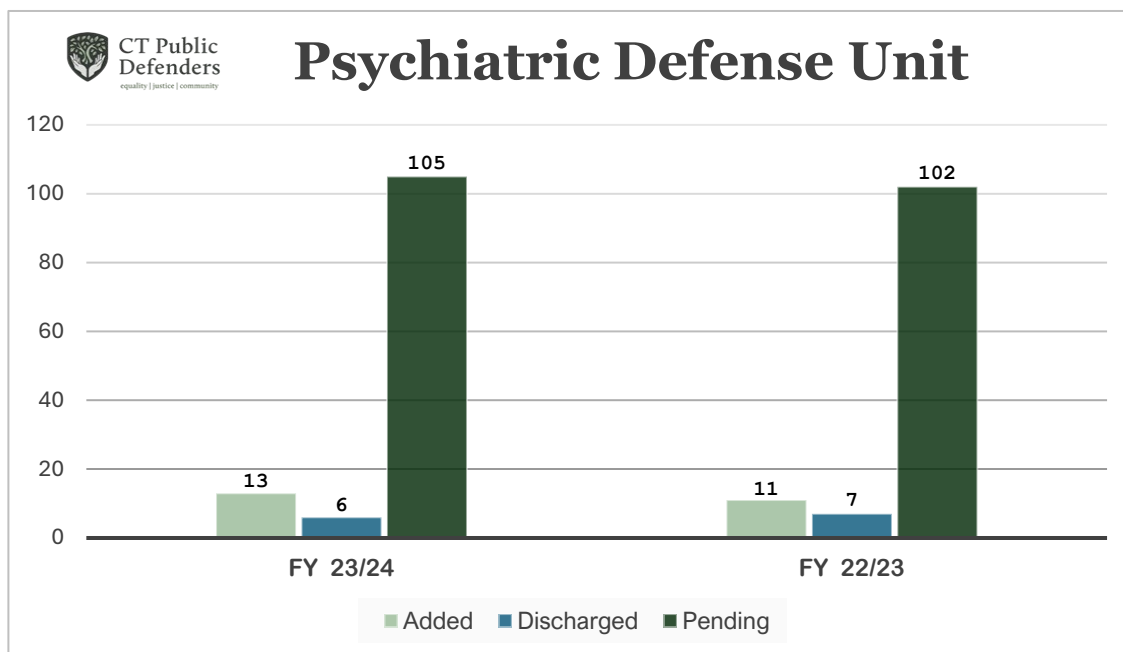


Psychiatric Defense Unit

The Psychiatric Defense Unit was established to meet the Division's responsibility to provide representation to indigent clients that have been found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect and placed under the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB). Located on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital, the office consists of three attorneys, a paralegal, and a social worker.

The Unit primarily represents clients at administrative hearings before the PSRB concerning issues such as the client's initial commitment, mandatory review of status, or applications for a change in status. The Unit also pursues administrative appeals of adverse PSRB decisions when necessary. In Superior Court, the Unit regularly litigates applications for discharge from PSRB supervision on behalf of clients and defends petitions filed by the State's Attorney to extend a client's PSRB commitment. During the past fiscal year, the Unit helped secure the release of six clients from the jurisdiction of the PSRB. The Psychiatric Defense Unit acts as a resource for Public Defender field offices consulting on cases involving competency to stand trial, presentation of an insanity defense, and other mental health issues that arise in criminal defense.

As of the close of this fiscal year, the Unit represents 105 individuals of the 133 total individuals currently committed to the jurisdiction of the PSRB.



Social Work

The Public Defender Social Workers function as the clinical experts on the defense teams. They provide assessment, referral, and supportive counseling for our adult criminal clients, juvenile delinquency clients, and child protection clients. They are an integral part of the teams in our psychiatric defense, community court, and parole revocation units. They are readily available to work with clients on 15-84 cases and those involved with the Innocence Project. They are active on community councils and work in conjunction with community providers to connect clients with resources when reentering society from incarceration. The efforts and expertise of the social workers enable our defense attorneys to argue for alternatives to incarceration plans and mitigation to lessen prison sentences.

This is an especially significant year for the Public Defender Social Work Department as 50 years ago, in 1974, Mary Hoban was hired as the first Public Defender Social Worker in the State of Connecticut. She had embarked on a judicial internship in 1973 as a UCONN graduate social work student within a legal firm that was providing indigent defense. This was prior to the formation of our Division of Public Defender Services in 1975. After she graduated, she remained with the firm as a volunteer until they hired her in 1974. As our Division formed and evolved, Mary went on to write grants that brought in one social worker at a time until all of our offices were staffed with permanent social work employees. She was responsible for the development of our Division's nationally recognized statewide Social Work Department which was the first of its kind in the country. State Representative Bill Heffernan presented our social workers with a Proclamation from the Governor at the Division's Annual Meeting proclaiming June 10, 2024, to be Public Defender Social Worker Day.

There are 44 social workers currently placed throughout our statewide offices. The breakdown is as follows:

- 1 Chief Social Worker housed at OCPD, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
- 33 full-time social workers located in our GA and JD offices
- 1 part-time social worker located in a JD office
- 6 full-time social workers located in our Juvenile offices
- 3 full-time social workers located in our specialty units

Eight social work interns were supervised in our offices around the state. A tour of Garner Correctional Institution was arranged for a group of interns and newer social work staff.



TRAININGS ATTENDED BY SOCIAL WORKERS THIS YEAR:	# ATTENDED
2023 Harm Reduction Conference Offered by the Connecticut Women’s Consortium (CWC)	3
The Other Gender: Using Trauma Informed Approach (CWC)	1
Forensic Social Work Certificate Program Offered by the National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW)	7
Adverse Childhood Experiences (CWC)	1
Women, Opioid Use Disorders (CWC)	1
Racism, Trauma & Addiction (CWC)	1
Trauma-Informed & Restorative Justice (CWC)	1
Seeking Safety (CWC)	1
Opioids: Whole Person Approach (CWC)	1
The Biology of Addiction (CWC)	1
Massachusetts Society for a World Free of Sexual Harm/ Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MASOC/MATSA) Joint Conference	1
Cultural Competency in the Workplace (CWC)	1
Veteran’s Services (CWC)	1
Ethical Practices in the Human Services (The Connection)	1
Psychopharmacology: The Basics and Beyond (CWC)	1
NOFSW 2024 Conference, New Orleans, LA (<i>attended and presented</i>)	2
The National Association of Social Workers/Connecticut (NASW/CT) 2024 Conference	12

Internal social work trainings included Veterans Services, Statewide Fatherhood Services, Competency to Stand Trial, Assessment and Advocacy for our Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing Clients, Violence Risk and Xylazine.

Social workers presented at both internal trainings and nationally at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW) in New Orleans, the Social Work and Law Enforcement (SWLE) Project’s Police-Social Work Academy, and the SWLE National Conference, “Police Social Workers and Bridging Communities.” Additionally, social workers were instrumental in the development of a legal terms/program terms glossary that the Training Department provided to the Division this year.

The Chief Social Worker assisted the Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection and Director of Assigned Counsel in creating a proposal requesting an additional 20 social work positions to assist assigned counsel representing children



in Child Protection cases. The Chief Social Worker had previously collaborated with the Deputy Chief Public Defender to recruit social workers to the state vendor list so that assigned counsel representing defendants in criminal matters had the option to retain social workers to assist in their cases.

The Chief Social Worker serves as the Chief Public Defender's designee on the Alcohol and Drug Policy Counsel of the Legislature and as a Tri-Chair of their Criminal Justice Subcommittee. The Chief Social Worker is also the liaison with the Department of Developmental Services when their clients require representation during police questioning and, this year, began liaison work with the State of Connecticut Aging and Disability Services for their Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind population that are criminal justice involved.

Investigative Division

The Investigative Division for the Public Defender Services is composed of the Acting Chief Investigator and 60 investigators in the field and specialty units. Additionally, there are 38 undergraduate interns located through various offices. Throughout these field offices, investigators contribute and assist attorneys in defending our indigent clients.

Contributions to the Division

Investigators provide an essential element to the zealous defense of the clients throughout the state. Investigators maintain high caseloads while still effectively and efficiently doing their jobs. The service of subpoenas by Public Defender investigators continues to save the Division a significant amount of money. This includes service of all assigned counsel criminal, habeas, juvenile, and child protection cases as well as subpoenas for their own cases and jurisdictions. The savings, which would otherwise be outsourced, prove to be incredibly cost effective for this agency.

Investigators in the specialized CTIP unit continue to stay with cases that go to assigned counsel in order to minimize the spending for the Division. This allows continuity for the client.

The Investigation Intern Program suffered a bit this year in the absence of our Chief Investigator. However, there were still 2 interns specific to Investigator internships as well as 36 undergraduate interns who had majors in various criminal justice and political science fields. This program is obviously important to teach undergraduate and graduate students about the importance of investigation in defense work and to mentor these students as future new hires for the division.



Investigator Training

Two Investigators attended the National Defender Investigator Association Conference in Scottsdale, AZ. This conference involved investigators from other states collaborating and sharing ideas with other defense Investigators in the State, Federal, and Private sector.

Six Investigators attended the NY State Defenders Association training which focused on team collaboration, witness interviews, and Body Cam and surveillance analyzation. The importance of advanced knowledge in Body Cam and surveillance footage is certainly subject matter for future training for all investigators in this agency in the upcoming year.

Information Technology

IT Infrastructure

Since 2022, the Division continued to add components and functionality to its IT infrastructure. Our mirrored data center sites are at the Office of Chief Public Defender located at 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, and 400 Grand Street, Waterbury. The Division is working to move its data to a cloud infrastructure by utilizing SharePoint and OneDrive. By continuing to update and upgrade our servers and utilize cloud platforms, the Division will be able to consolidate resources, manage and secure users' data, and provide greater access and control over resources across our wide area network. Our data centers continue to be an important platform for the Division because users' data is protected from disaster and system failures. Users have access to their data no matter where in the agency they are located. A user can move or transfer offices while their data remains in the same place, allowing them to work more efficiently. In addition, users can work remotely in different locations without always having to be online.

Operating Systems and Hardware

In the last couple of years, the IT department has continued to focus on upgrading our operating systems to Windows 11 and improving the functionality of our current systems. New multifunction copy/printer/scanner systems replaced older printers. These provide staff with better access to scan case file materials into the JustWare Defender Case Management System. Laptops have been deployed to all users, and aging ones that had reached their five-year warranty have been replaced. These older systems had become less reliable in handling the increased production requirements of today's software and user demands.



Business Information Systems

Over the past year, the Business Information Systems department has continued to support the Division's mission to provide effective legal representation. The department manages a sophisticated case management system that serves more than 30 offices. This system encompasses more than three million distinct person and case records containing more than one billion data points, making it the most comprehensive repository of case information in the Division.

Key Achievements:

- **Extensive User Support:** With a user base exceeding 400, the department handled numerous support requests and provided training sessions to ensure consistent, effective use of the case management system across all offices. Training emphasized best practices in data entry, report generation, and document automation.
- **Automated Document and Report Generation:** The department's system generated more than 100,000 documents and reports throughout the year and more than one million since its inception. Considering the amount of time saved in generating a single document or report, this is an extremely significant number. The system's functionality has improved operational efficiency, enabling staff to dedicate more time to case preparation and client representation.

Ongoing Transition Project:

The department is collaborating with its current vendor to transition to a new, state-of-the-art case management system. The upcoming application will deliver enhanced functionality and user experience, providing the agency with greater flexibility, data accuracy, and streamlined workflows. This transition aims to empower attorneys and staff with improved tools, ultimately resulting in better service to clients.

Data-Driven Leadership:

Throughout the year, the department continued to deliver statistical insights to agency leadership. These statistics have supported data-driven decision-making, helping to identify trends, resource allocation needs, and areas of improvement.



Looking Forward:

As the department moves forward with the transition to a new case management system, we remain committed to maintaining service quality, providing continuous training to users, and ensuring a seamless shift. The anticipated benefits of the new system will further strengthen the Division's capacity to serve clients effectively by enabling faster access to data, more accurate reporting, and efficient case handling.

Overall, the Business Information Systems department's efforts in 2024 have been integral to improving operational efficiency and enhancing the Division's mission to provide effective legal representation to those in need.



Expenditures 2024

The Public Defender Services Commission’s Actual General Fund Expenditures for FY 2024 totaled \$84,818,673. Below is a breakout of the actual expenditures for the agency:

ACCOUNT	FY 2024
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 49,247,719
OTHER (OPERATING) EXPENSES	\$ 1,561,619
ASSIGNED COUNSEL	\$ 31,313,988
EXPERT WITNESSES	\$ 2,575,600
TRAINING AND EDUCATION	\$ 119,747
TOTAL FY 2024 EXPENDITURES	\$ 84,818,673

The Commission’s FY 2024 expenditures of \$84.8 million supported a permanent staff of 433 full-time and 11 part-time employees, 234 of whom were attorneys. Other staff consisted of administrative, social work, investigative, secretarial, and clerical personnel.

Appropriated Budget 2025

In FY 2025, the Commission’s total available General Fund appropriation is \$89,492,117 to support a staff of 451 full-time positions (the agency authorized position count) and 12 part-time positions. Below is a breakout of the FY 2025 General Fund available appropriations:

ACCOUNT	FY 2025
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 51,267,598
OTHER (OPERATING) EXPENSES	\$ 1,565,163
ASSIGNED COUNSEL	\$ 33,764,004
EXPERT WITNESSES	\$ 2,775,604
TRAINING AND EDUCATION	\$ 119,748
TOTAL FY 25 APPROPRIATION	\$ 89,492,117



It should be noted that the Commission was appropriated \$8,841,611 in the Assigned Counsel account to increase the assigned counsel rates 35% across all practice areas.

Federal Grants

American Rescue Plan Act

In FY 2024, \$1,765,789 was spent on a federal grant pass through Office of Policy & Management entitled the American Rescue Plan Act. The funding was used to hire temporary attorneys to relieve caseload backlogs that were created during the 2020 pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan Act account was carried forward into FY 2025 in the amount of \$1,025,161.

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 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 at payment.

A total of \$20,560 was collected in FY 2024, compared to \$19,216 collected in FY 2023. 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 in order to collect these funds.



Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

Legal Counsel, Director/Legislative Liaison

The Legal Counsel Unit provides counsel to the Public Defender Services Commission and the Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) regarding budgetary, contractual, ethical, freedom of information, legislative litigation, personnel and policy issues. The Legal Counsel Director oversees all claims submitted to the agency's malpractice carrier, serves as the Attorney General's Designee in affirmative action litigation and other matters, and is the Freedom of Information Officer for the Division. In addition, Legal Counsel advises Division personnel in Statewide Grievance and Habeas Corpus proceedings upon request and is the legislative liaison to the General Assembly and Office of the Governor.

A Preview of the 2025 Legislative Session

The 2025 legislative session is long, as it is a budget session that commences on January 8, 2025, and concludes at midnight on June 4, 2025. During this time there will be meetings with legislative leaders, committee leadership, the Governor's office, legislative members, and stakeholders.

In preparation for the 2025 legislative session, legislative proposals received from the field offices were reviewed by the Public Defender Legislative Committee (PDLC), which is composed of the office heads from each of the field and specialty offices. Among those received were proposals to increase juror compensation and amend statutes pertaining to a failure to appear, jail credit, eligibility for a Miller-Graham hearing, motor vehicle thefts, involuntary administration of psychiatric medication, commitment of an acquittee to the PSRB, petitions for a new trial, expansion of pretrial diversionary programs, advocacy for increased housing for clients, the parentage statute, perjury, and wrongful convictions.

After the meeting held during the fall of 2024, all proposals were reviewed and discussed with the Acting Chief Public Defender for inclusion in the 2025 OCPD Legislative Package. Those selected for inclusion in the OCPD package were submitted to the General Assembly and Committee leadership with a request that the OCPD proposals be raised for a public hearing.

A full summary of all legislation that is passed during the session will be distributed after the close of the 2025 session.



A Review of the 2024 OCPD Legislative Proposals

The 2024 session ran from February 7, 2024, through May 8, 2024. Not all the OCPD proposals were raised for a public hearing, and anything that was raised was only done in agreement with stakeholders, including the Division of Criminal Justice. OCPD proposed the following legislation:

1. **An Act Concerning Juror Compensation** would have increased compensation for jurors and expanded access to part-time or per diem employees to serve as jurors.

The proposal was raised in House Bill 5500 but was struck from the bill when Public Act 24-137, An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries and Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, was passed.

2. **An Act Concerning Legal Representation for Children in Certain Proceedings in the Superior Court** would have expanded eligibility for public defender services to DCF clients aged 18 to 23.

Not Raised.

3. **An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders or Warrants** would mandate that public defenders be appointed to represent indigent persons facing civil Risk Protection Proceedings.

This was raised in House Bill 5500 and included in Section 1 of P.A. 24-137, An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries and Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.

4. **An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences** would have expanded eligibility for a "Miller-Graham" proceeding to include anyone convicted of an offense committed while the person was between the ages of 18 and 21.

Not Raised.

5. **An Act Regarding Intellectual Disabilities** would have expended eligibility to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Not Raised.



6. **An Act Concerning an Affirmative Defense** would have provided an affirmative defense to be asserted in a violation of probation or criminal protective order proceedings.

Not Raised.

7. **An Act Concerning Felony Murder** would have provided a lesser penalty for persons who were present but were not the person who committed the murder during the commission of a felony.

Not Raised.

Legislation Supported by OCPD Which Became Public Acts

P.A. 24-106 An Act Concerning Compensation for Persons Who Are Wrongfully Incarcerated

Section 1 expands eligibility for a person to receive compensation for wrongful incarceration to include a person who has had their conviction vacated or reversed and the complaint dismissed, where the grounds are "consistent with innocence," and clarifies the process for calculating compensation.

P.A. 24-126 An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Office of Child Advocate

Section 9 establishes a working group to review data and information regarding the effectiveness of DCF in discharging its child protection responsibilities and to develop a plan for the regular public dissemination of such data and information and includes the Chief Public Defender or their designee.

Section 10 establishes a working group to review the delivery of legal services to children in child protection proceedings which includes the Chief Public Defender or their designee.

P.A. 24-127 An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse

Section 1 creates a Sexual Assault Criminal Justice Response, Enhancement and Model Policy Advisory Council to develop a model policy for response by the criminal



justice system to sexual assaults of adults. The Chief Public Defender or their designee is on this Council.

P.A. 24-129 **An Act Concerning Eligibility for Participation in a Pretrial Family Violence Education Program**

Section 1 expanded the Pretrial Family Violence Education Program (FVEP) eligibility to include persons charged with a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of C.G.S §53-21 (Risk of Injury) if good cause is shown.

P.A. 24-137 **An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries and Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure**

Section 1 authorized the appointment of counsel for any person who is indigent and already represented by a public defender or an assigned counsel in a pending criminal proceeding in Risk Protection Proceedings.

Section 2 eliminated, as a condition to operating a motor vehicle, the requirement of installing and maintaining an ignition interlock device if a person has been arrested for violating the operating under the influence statutes if the only intoxicating substance detected is cannabis, the charges for such are withdrawn, nolle or dismissed, the person is acquitted or has received an absolute pardon, or the charge is vacated, overturned, or erased.

Section 6 provides factors for the court to consider when determining the least restrictive placement that is appropriate and available to restore a person's competency and requires the court to presume that outpatient treatment is the least restrictive and appropriate placement, in circumstances where the defendant is not charged with a felony, unless there is good cause to find otherwise.

P.A. 24-139 **An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

The act expands the scope of the JJPOC to review gaps in gender responsiveness, human trafficking, reentry plans for youth released from DOC.

