

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Highlights and Goals

Public Defender

FY2012 Highlights

- Caseload complexity continues to increase, yet, quality legal representation to indigent clients (including more bench and jury trials) continues at minimal cost to County.
- It is projected that sixteen (16) Public Defenders clients will successfully graduate from Mental Health Court in 2012.
- Electronic management program continues to efficiently archive files.
- Effective management of attorneys in covering courtroom cases and in meeting continuing legal education.
- Reviewing and updating internal administrative policies to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of services and procedures.
- Established and currently providing services to the County's first Drug Court of which 24 participants are Public Defender clients.

FY2013 Goals

- Completion of an integrated court information system for the Public Defender's Office.
- Continue successful operation of the Drug Court and Mental Health Court.
- Courtroom representation
 - Horizontal representation for each appointed client and each full-time public defender being responsible for an assigned courtroom.
 - Maintain and preserve flexibility and professionalism in providing quality legal representation in criminal and related proceedings to indigent defendants at small cost to county.
- Investigations
 - Newly appointed clients are promptly interviewed.
 - Design and implement comprehensive procedures, investigating crime scenes, transporting defendants, and assisting in the preparation of materials which will be used at trial when the defendant's side of the case is presented.
- Reception/clerical
 - Coordination between client and attorney.
 - Build and maintain data base of reports, motions, memos, briefs, etc.
 - Maintain open communication between staff members to foster team effort.