

# Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget Highlights and Goals

## Public Defender

### FY2008 Highlights

- Caseload continues to increase, yet quality legal representation to indigent clients continues at small cost to County.
- Implementing an electronic management program to efficiently archive files.
- Efficient management of human resources to continue courtroom coverage and satisfy mandatory continuing legal education.
- Office staffing modified to face the challenges posed by recent Supreme Court rule changes.
- Public Defender compensation continues to be paid by State.
- Expanded the use of present office resources to address expansion of the criminal justice system.
- Continued revamping several administrative procedures.
- "E-court" implementation continuing.
- Sustain used to create a Public Defender specific case management system.

### FY2009 Goals

- 1) Implement an electronic case management system to deal with the high number of appointed clients.
- 2) Implement an electronic file management system to deal with the high number of files needing to be archived.
- 3) Courtroom representation
  - a. Horizontal representation for each appointed client and each full time public defender being responsible for an assigned courtroom
  - b. Maintain and preserve flexibility and professionalism in providing quality legal representation in criminal and related proceedings to indigent defendants at small cost to county.
- 4) Investigations
  - a. Newly appointed clients are promptly interviewed.
  - b. 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.
- 5) Reception/clerical
  - a. Coordination between client and attorney
  - b. Build and maintain data base of reports, motions, memos, briefs, etc.
  - c. Maintain open communication between staff members to foster team effort.