

**Basic information about the San Francisco Public Defender**  
From [www.sfpublicdefender.org](http://www.sfpublicdefender.org)  
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## Services

If you have been charged with a crime and cannot afford an attorney, you will be assigned a public defense attorney. The Public Defender's Office has 90 licensed misdemeanor and felony attorneys, also known as deputy public defenders. Most deputy public defenders have 5 to 25 years of criminal law and trial experience. Your deputy public defender will diligently represent you at every stage of your case.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible to have your case transferred to a specialty court. There are three specialty courts in San Francisco: Behavioral Health Court, Proposition 36 Court and Drug Court. These courts handle sensitive cases where alternatives to incarceration, such as drug rehabilitation and intensive case management, are provided. Deputy public defenders staff each of these courts and are available to represent you.

## INVESTIGATING AND PREPARING YOUR CASE

Your deputy public defender will investigate your case, file all necessary motions, engage in settlement conferences, and represent you in every hearing and at trial. Your deputy public defender will work with an experienced Public Defender's Office investigator who will locate and obtain other evidence. The office has 18 investigators with 5 to 30 years experience. Your lawyer also has access to 14 paralegals, three transcribers, and an array of expert witnesses and other resources that might be needed to prepare your defense.

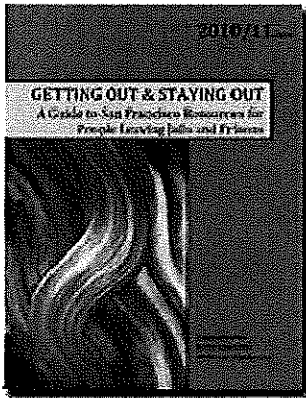
## ADDRESSING YOUR SOCIAL NEEDS

Your deputy public defender will work with the Public Defender's Office social work staff to assess any needs that stand in the way of the most favorable outcome for your case. Our three social workers can refer you to substance abuse, housing, mental health and employment programs. If you have children and are concerned about their well-being, talk to your deputy public defender about how our Children of Incarcerated Parents can help.

## CLEANING UP YOUR RECORD

A criminal arrest or conviction may present barriers to obtaining employment, housing, education and public benefits. The Public Defender's Office Clean Slate Program helps its clients clean their records in order to overcome these barriers. If you are not currently represented by a deputy public defender, you can download information about the Clean Slate Program here: [Clean Slate Program Instructions, Procedures, and Application \(PDF\)](#) You can also visit during Clean Slate drop-in hours: locations and times are listed on our [Contact](#) page.

## RESOURCE GUIDE



Click on photo to download

This comprehensive resource guide was first published in 2007 and was the product of a collaborative reentry planning process focused on improving access to resources for individuals reintegrating into San Francisco communities after incarceration. Since the first issue, more than 14,000 copies have been distributed to inmates, previously incarcerated people, family members, corrections staff, probation and parole officers and reentry partners. To learn more and download a copy of the resource guide, please visit the Reentry Council [here](#).

## Felony

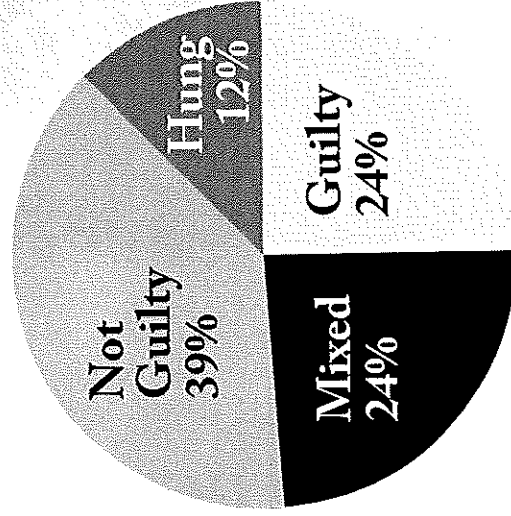
- 91 Cases dismissed due to police misconduct
- 62 Jury trials
- 71% Success rate\*
- 8 Homicide trials
- 50% Homicide trials won

## Misdemeanor

- 145 Jury trials
- 78% Success rate\*
- 21 Domestic violence trials
- 9 Domestic violence trials won\*
- 14 Participants in Volunteer Attorney Program
- 38 Trials by volunteer attorneys

\* acquittal/mixed verdict/hung/dismissed at trial

## Combined Felony and Misdemeanor Trial Results



Dismissed 1%



## Behavioral Health Court

40 Number of graduates

## Research Unit

- 35 Memorandum of Law
- 83 Motions
- 135 Writs and appeal
- 25 Office trainings and seminars
- 850 Number of files reviewed
- 90 Number of clients tracked down

## Investigation Unit

2921 Written requests  
5000 Database searches  
1:6 Ratio of investigators to attorneys  
2880 Interviews  
3600 Subpoenas

## Paralegal Unit

2 Number of new hires  
2500 Subpoenas created and sent out  
100 Clients clothed for trial  
500 Blowups printed



## Mental Health Unit

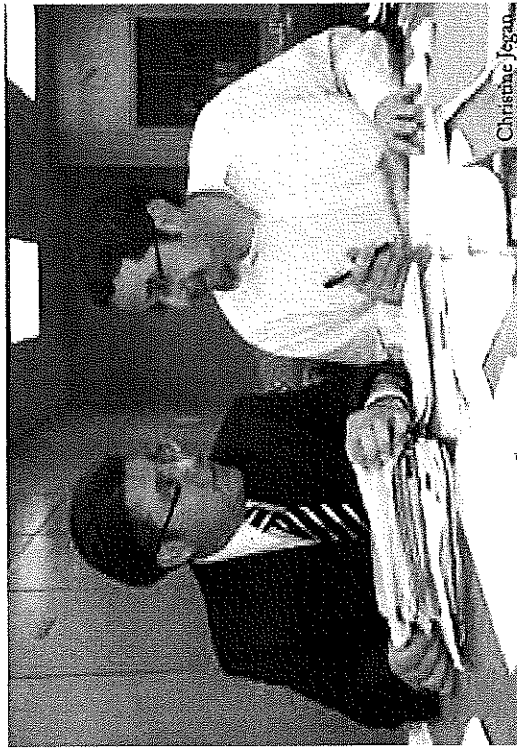
2839 Total cases handled  
4 Criminal dismissals for conserved clients  
4 Jury trials  
3 Jury trials won

## Training Unit

50 In-house workshop and lectures  
53 Case conferences  
110 New attorney training sessions

## Volunteer Intern Program

285 Participants in VIP



## Juvenile

- 0 Youth sent to state incarceration facilities or transferred to adult court
- 194 Youth diverted from formal juvenile probation  
75% success rate
- 63 Social work recommendations adopted by the juvenile courts
- 98% Success rate in preventing school expulsion and securing services for special education students
- 382 Interviews conducted by investigators
- 209 Subpoenas served by investigators
- 32 Juvenile delinquency cases dismissed due to investigations

## Specialty Courts & Reentry

- 306 Assessments by Social Worker and referred to residential and outpatient program, shelter and other services
- 246 Of those assessed, success rate

## Drug Court

- 406 Total cases
- 168 Number of graduates

## Proposition 36

- 57 Total cases
- 29 Number of graduates

## Clean Slate

- 1194 Motions filed
- 94% Motions successfully granted
- 969 Convictions expunged
- 62 Arrest records sealed and destroyed
- 81 Felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor
- 10 Certificate of Rehabilitation after serving state prison sentence
- 3800 Individuals served by Clean Slate



### Clerical Unit

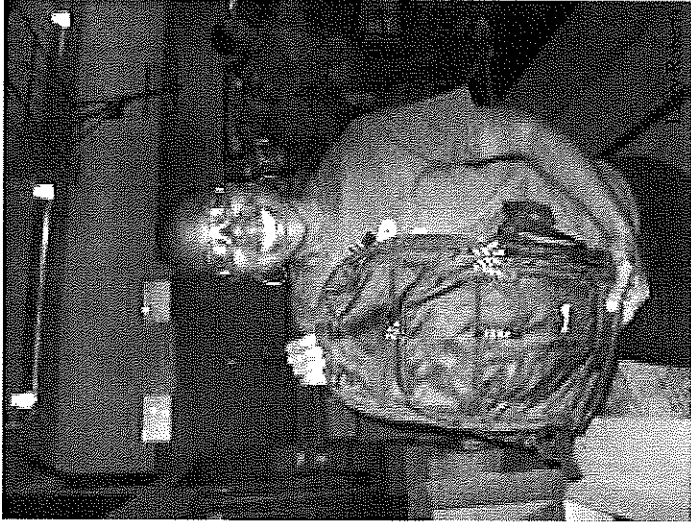
550 Files pulled  
110,000 Front desk telephone calls  
22,334 New criminal files created

### Word Processing

667 Rush pages completed  
113 Requests received  
5331 Pages of transcripts completed

### Information and Technology Unit

31 New laptops available to trial attorneys  
7092 Wiki articles  
190 PowerPoints used in trials



### BMAGIC and Mo'MAGIC

2096 Backpacks given away  
2841 Total youth served  
690 Participants in Literacy is Freedom event  
55 Youth attending winter ball  
45 Partners in Bayview-Hunters Point