

Office of the Legal Defender

•Serving Justice since 1995•

~ FY06 ANNUAL REPORT ~

OLD Members

The Office of the Legal Defender [OLD] regular staff roster for FY06 consisted of the following:

Criminal Division:

Attorneys	32
Support Staff	38
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CR TOTAL	70

Juvenile Dependency/Severance Division:

Attorneys	14
Support Staff	12
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JD/JS TOTAL	26

In addition to serving our Clients, the Office also believes in helping in the development of future participants in the legal system, and so it maintains its externship program through the College of Law at Arizona State University.

The year-round extern program immerses law students in actual casework, giving students invaluable benefit of hands-on legal experience while the Office gains legal research and casework assistance. The Office's program has garnered a favorable reputation at the Law School and sees a regular flow of applicants for the limited number of externship positions. In FY06, one extern worked at OLD in the Dependency-Severance Division.

Select Clients

The Office of the Legal Defender clientele comes only from assignments by the Superior Court of Arizona. The Office is appointed to represent the following individuals:

1. people charged with serious criminal offenses, or parents in juvenile dependency / juvenile severance actions,

AND

2. individuals who the court has determined are unable to afford a private attorney.

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MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE LEGAL DEFENDER IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO US BY THE COURT, THUS SAFEGUARDING THE FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL RIGHTS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

VISION

BY PROVIDING OUR INDIGENT CLIENTS WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION, THE COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM OUR WORK, INCLUDING

1. SETTING A LEGAL STANDARD WITH OUR ADHERENCE TO EXCEPTIONAL, INNOVATIVE REPRESENTATION OF CLIENTS' INTERESTS BY ATTORNEYS, INVESTIGATORS, MITIGATION SPECIALISTS, AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS, ALL WHILE OBSERVING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES;
2. PRESERVING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS WITH OUR DEDICATION TO PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED;
3. ENHANCING THE CITIZENRY'S CONFIDENCE IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM BY CONSISTENTLY DEMANDING JUST AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALL.

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GOALS

- I. DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION FOR EACH CLIENT IN AN ETHICAL FASHION THAT PROTECTS HIS OR HER RIGHTS AND ENSURES EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.
- II. PROVIDE THE COUNTY A COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF REPRESENTATION FOR INDIGENT CLIENTS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE REPRESENTED BY THE MARICOPA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVOCATE, OR THE OFFICE OF CONTRACT COUNSEL.
- III. RETAIN AND DEVELOP ATTORNEYS AND STAFF HIGHLY REGARDED FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE SKILLS IN REPRESENTING, INVESTIGATING, OR SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE OF ASSIGNED CLIENTELE.
- IV. CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPECT FOR CLIENTS AND FELLOW EMPLOYEES ARE INHERENT.
- V. ENDORSE MEASURES TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT AND INCARCERATION.
- VI. MAINTAIN WORKLOADS THAT DO NOT JEOPARDIZE ANY CLIENT'S DEFENSE.

FY06 Budget

In FY06, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors provided the Office of the Legal Defender the following funding:

FY05-06

\$5,567,551 for the Criminal Division,
 \$1,957,560 for the Juvenile Division,
 and
 \$ 705,444 for the Admin/IT Division.

These monies served the county in the handling of the following cases [Note: the categories listed for these statistics parallel the county's MfR standards for the fiscal year].

CASES:

10	Misdemeanor Assignments
580	Probation Violation Assignments
41	Witness Representation Assgmnmts.
4,934	Felony Assignments Other than First Degree Murder
8	First Degree Murder Assignments
1,353	Parental Representation Assignments [JD/JS/Grndshp]
1,018	Dependency Recertifications,

A standard review of the Office at the close of FY06 found that the Office again fulfilled the following:

- a respected law firm,
- a reputation for legal leadership,
- a fiscally responsible department, and
- a community asset.

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More Service

While remaining devoted to serving indigent clients in the legal arena, OLD staff members also enjoy working in or with other community groups to help people, animals, and the environment. Our people continued their efforts with groups such as American Civil Liberties Union; Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice; Arizona Capital Representation Project; Arizona Humane Society; Arizona Public Defender Association; Arizona State Bar Association – Criminal Practice and Procedure Committee; ASU College of Law Alumni Association – Board; Arizona Theatre Company; Audubon Society; Civil War Preservation Trust; Friends of Animal Care & Control; Habitat for Humanity; Liberty Wildlife; Little League; National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; National Association of Legal Assistants; National Defender Investigators Association; National Trial Institute – Evidence Seminar; National Wildlife Federation; Nature Conservancy; Parent-Teacher Associations; Phoenix Zoo; Public Television–Channel 8; Red Cross; Salvation Army; Scouts of America - Boy & Girl; Sojourners; Sierra Club; St. Mary's Food Bank; St. Vincent de Paul; and World Wildlife Fund. At the holidays, OLD members gathered gifts for families in need. By constant advocacy of myriad issues, OLD continues to be a vital voice for our world.

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Holiday Families

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S. Briney

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-Maricopa County-

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Dedicated to
the Guardians of Freedom ~
wherever they are found.