

ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER - 1170

MISSION

The mission of the Alternate Public Defender is to defend indigent individuals at all levels of the judicial process to ensure that their legal rights are upheld in those cases where a conflict of interest exists between an indigent defendant and the Albany County Public Defender's Office.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Albany County Division of Alternate Public Defender provides legal representation for indigent individuals at criminal court trials, family court trials, and at appellate levels of the judicial process where a conflict of interest exists with the Albany County Public Defender's Office. This year the Department continues a transition plan in which all attorney positions will eventually evolve into full-time County employees. These changes will allow the Department to operate more efficiently which will benefit the Department's clients and also the County.

OUTCOME

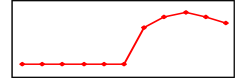
All indigent individuals represented by the Alternate Public Defender will receive a high-quality, well-informed defense to ensure equal representation under the law.

A four-year plan for improved legal services for the indigent developed by the County Executive and endorsed by the Legislature began in 2007. The plan included converting all attorneys in the Office of the Alternate Public Defender from part-time to full-time. Resulting improvements already evident in the quality of services provided by the Public and Alternate Public Defenders were particularly important in 2008. They were the basis of the argument for the State to continue providing Albany with more than \$1 million in Indigent Legal Services Funds despite a reduction in total spending, including payments to private counsel.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Completing the restructuring full-time attorney plan one year earlier than previously scheduled; the Department has a total of 10 full-time attorney positions for 2009. This accelerated conversion of full-time staff is anticipated to promote a significant decrease in private attorney or 18-B spending on indigent defense in Albany County in 2009.
- The Department has one additional receptionist position included in its 2009 Budget to provide for critical office support to the full-time attorney staff and their clients.
- The Department's budget includes a total increase of \$145,139 in appropriations for 2009 related to the conversion of the office's attorney staff to full-time and related supporting expenses.
- The Department's budgeted revenue is decreased by a total of \$44,500 related to a decrease in state funding.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY

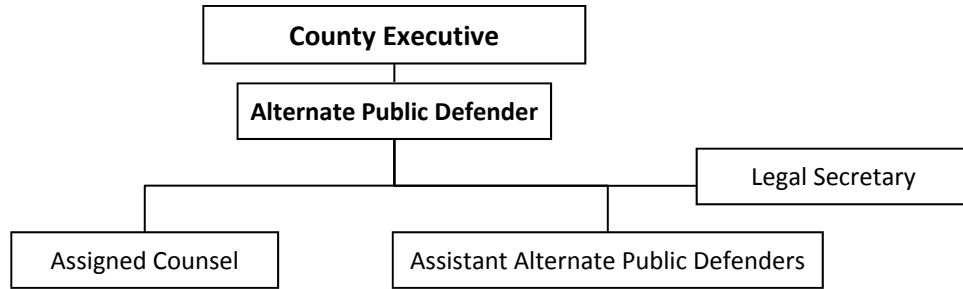


1998:	\$0
1999:	\$0
2000:	\$0
2001:	\$0
2002:	\$0
2003:	\$0
2004:	\$729,329
2005:	\$950,514
2006:	\$1,049,065
2007:	\$954,438
2008:	\$818,496

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER - 1170



Account	Description	2007 Expended	2008 Adjusted	2009 Proposed	2008-09 Change	2008-09 Percent Change
Appropriations						
Division Alternate Public Def.-(1171)						
	Personnel Services	\$ 448,801	\$ 587,583	\$ 698,904	\$ 111,321	18.9%
	Equipment	\$ 2,048	\$ 0	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	100.0%
	Contractual Expenses	\$ 991,311	\$ 69,009	\$ 63,425	\$(5,584)	(8.1%)
	Fringe Benefits	\$ 133,834	\$ 161,904	\$ 200,106	\$ 38,202	23.6%
	Division Alternate Public Def.	\$ 1,575,995	\$ 818,496	\$ 963,635	\$ 145,139	17.7%
	Appropriations	\$ 1,575,995	\$ 818,496	\$ 963,635	\$ 145,139	17.7%
Revenue						
	Division Alternate Public Def.	\$(396,645)	\$(396,645)	\$(352,145)	\$ 44,500	(11.2%)
	Revenue	\$(396,645)	\$(396,645)	\$(352,145)	\$ 44,500	(11.2%)
	County Share	\$ 1,179,350	\$ 421,851	\$ 611,490	\$ 189,639	45.0%
			2008	2009	2009	2008-09
			Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Changes
			10	12	11	1
						Percent Change
ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER						10.0%