

1225
FALLON



ALAMEDA COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDERS

FY 2026-27 Preliminary MOE BUDGET

April 14, 2026

Presented by: Brendon D. Woods, Public Defender

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



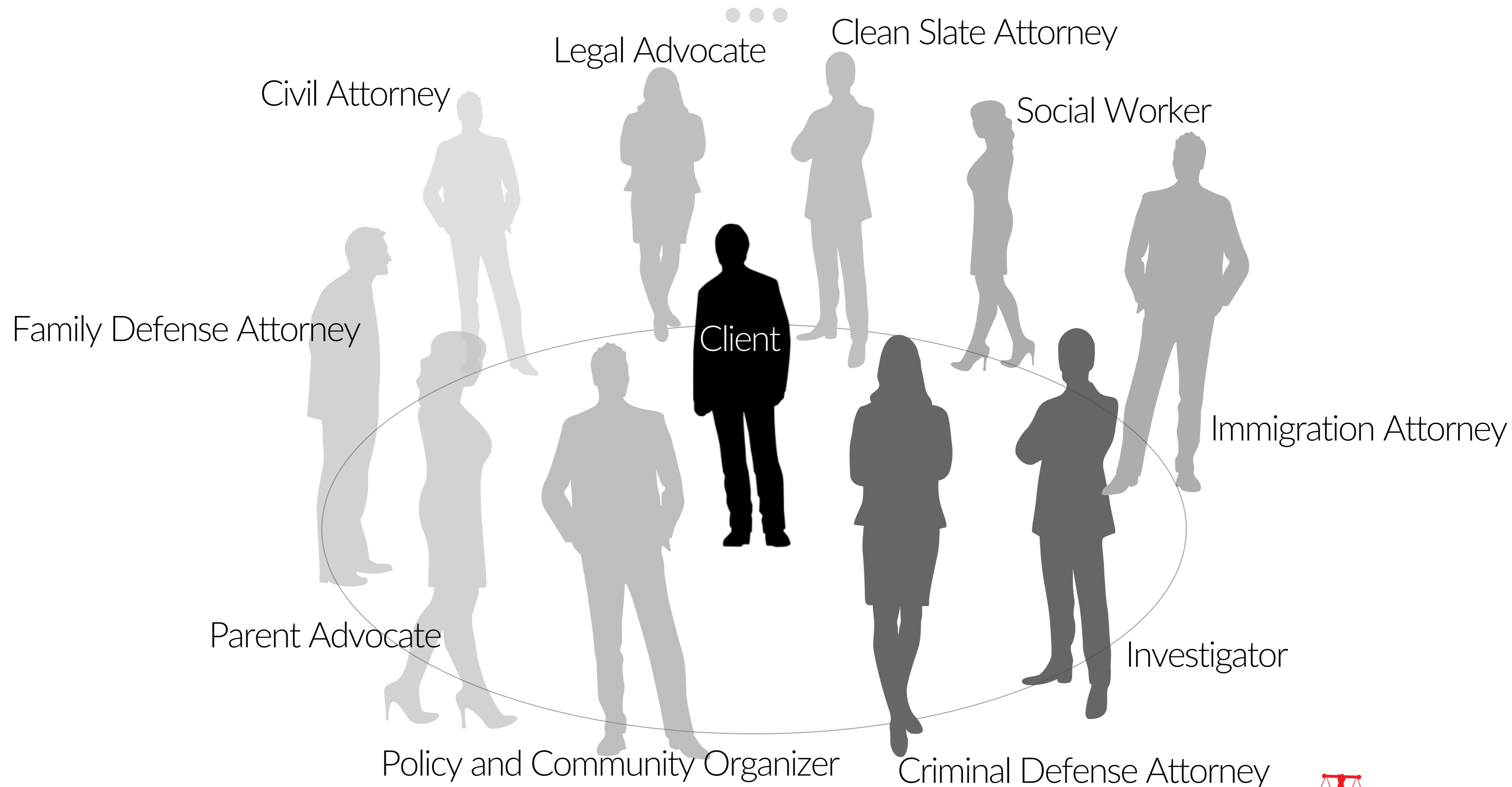
To zealously protect and defend the rights of our clients through compassionate and inspired legal representation of the highest quality, in pursuit of a fair and unbiased system of justice for all.



The Public Defender is the primary defense attorney for indigent individuals accused of crimes or otherwise facing potential incarceration or loss of liberty.

Death Penalty Cases - Felonies - Misdemeanors - Minors - Appeals - PRCS Violations/Parole Revocation - Clean Slate - Immigration

OUR MODEL
HOLISTIC DEFENSE



PUBLIC DEFENDER FINANCIAL SUMMARY



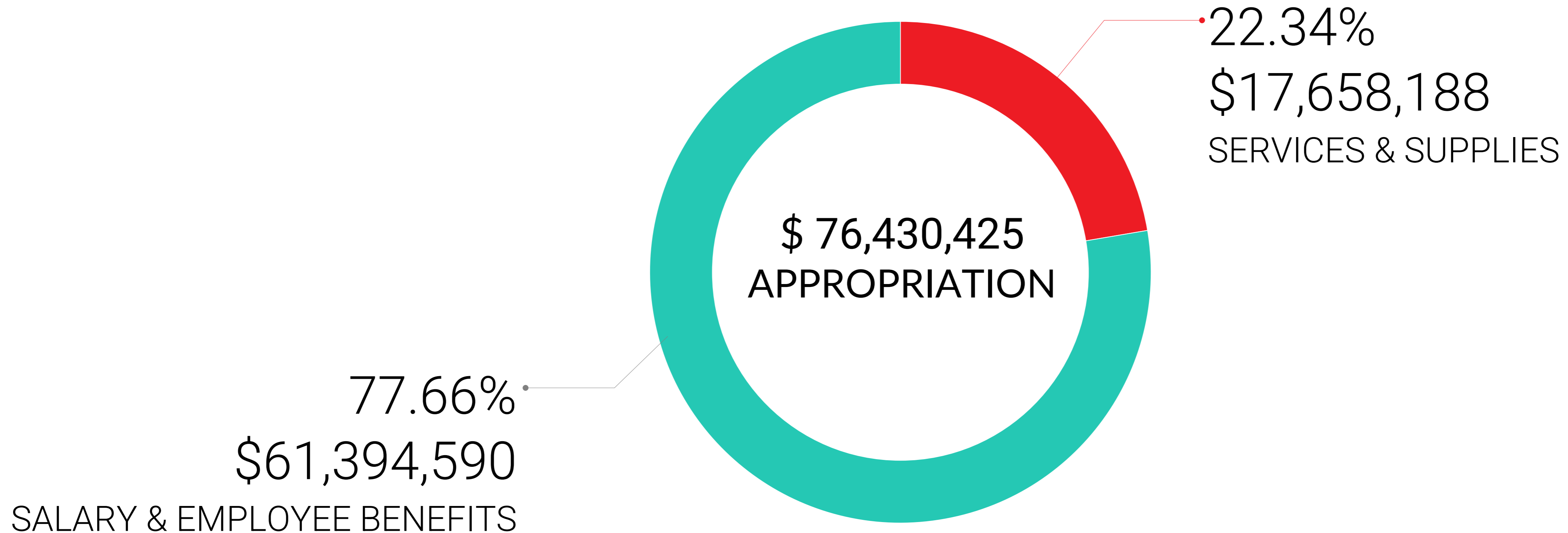
PUBLIC DEFENDER	FY 2025-26 Approved Budget	FY 2026-27 Preliminary MOE Budget	Change from FY 25-26 Approved to FY 26-27 MOE	
			Amount	Percentage
Appropriation	\$ 72,191,575	\$ 76,430,425	\$ 4,238,850	5.87%
Revenue	\$ 6,637,142	\$ 6,803,950	\$ 166,808	2.51%
Net County Cost	\$ 65,554,433	\$ 69,626,475	\$ 4,072,042	6.21%
FTE – Mgmt.	154.74	154.74	-	0%
FTE – Non-Mgmt.	48.99	48.99	-	0%
Total FTE	203.73	203.73	-	0%

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF NET COUNTY COST (NCC) CHANGE



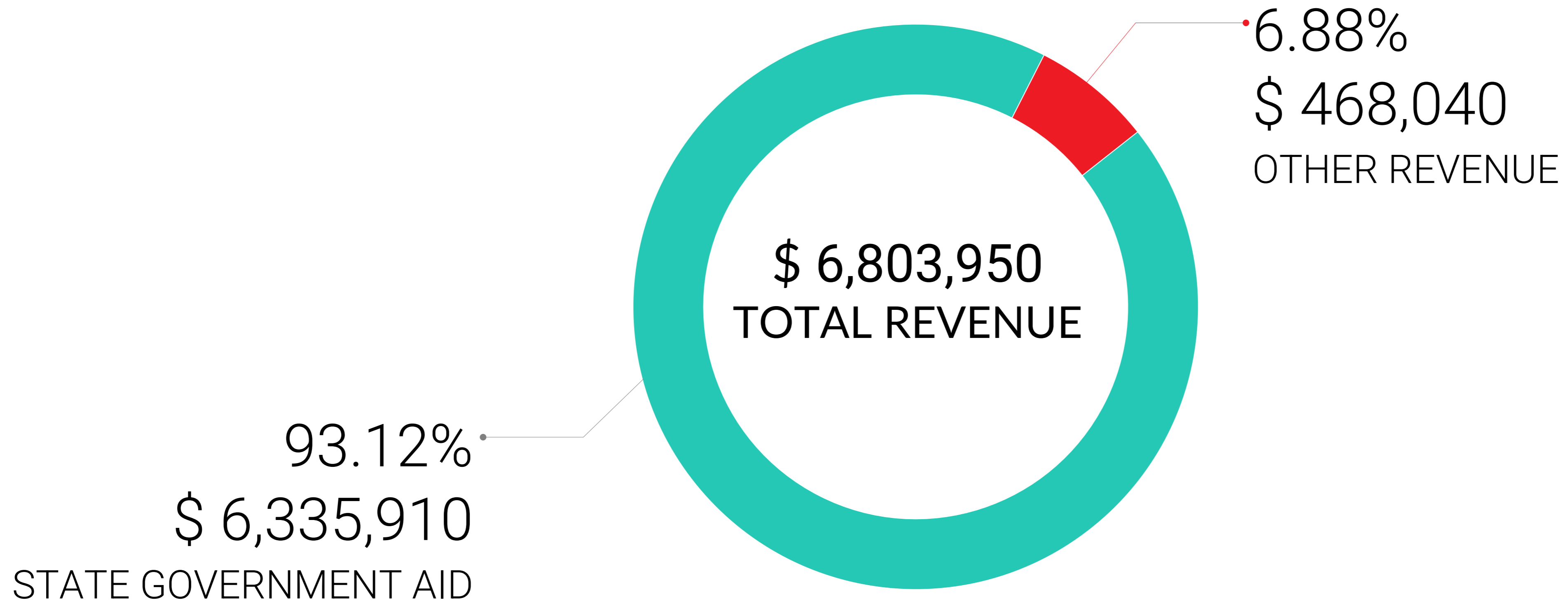
Component	Amount Change
Salary and Employee Benefits	\$ 185,102
Internal Service Funds	\$ 3,361,390
Discretionary Services and Supplies	\$ 942,358
Intra-Fund Transfers	(\$ 250,000)
Revenue	(\$ 166,808)
Total Change in Net County Cost	\$ 4,072,042

TOTAL APPROPRIATION BY MAJOR OBJECT



INTRA-FUND TRANSFERS: -\$2,622,353

TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE



INDIGENT DEFENSE - COMBINED



	FY 2025-26 Approved Appropriations	FY 2025-26 Approved Net County Cost	FY 2026-27 MOE Preliminary Appropriations	FY 2026-27 MOE Preliminary Net County Cost	NCC Change From FY 25-26 Approved to FY 26-27 MOE	
					Amount	Percentage
Public Defender	\$ 72,191,575	\$ 65,554,433	\$ 76,430,425	\$ 69,626,475	\$ 4,072,042	6.10%
Indigent Defense Including CAAP & Contract Services	\$ 10,864,853	\$ 9,279,219	\$ 15,866,804	\$ 14,281,170	\$ 5,001,951	53.90%
Total	\$ 83,056,428	\$ 74,833,652	\$ 92,297,229	\$ 83,907,645	\$ 9,073,993	12.13%

HOLISTIC DEFENSE



27,085

Files Opened



2,766

Conflicts



Eliminate
Homelessness



Thriving &
Resilient Population



Employment
for All



Prosperous &
Vibrant Economy



Crime-Free
County



Eliminate Poverty
& Hunger

SOCIAL WORK

HOLISTIC DEFENSE MITIGATION SPECIALISTS

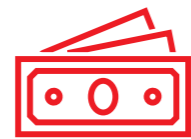


Assessed the needs of 346 Public Defender clients.

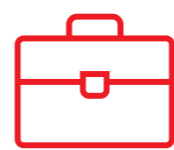
88% of recommended treatment plans were accepted by the Court.



Crime-Free County



Fiscal Stewardship



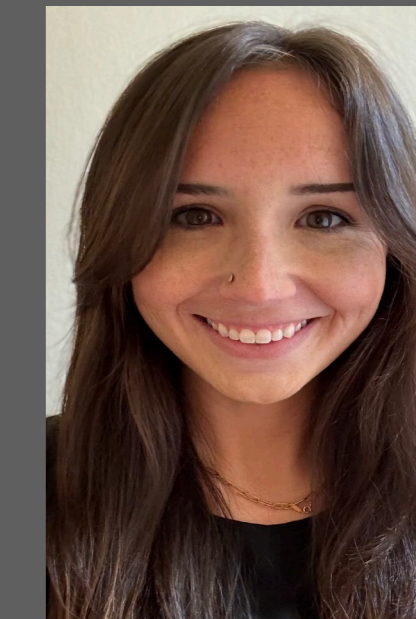
Employment for All



Eliminate Homelessness



Collaboration



MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MR. C



Mr. C was charged with residential burglary for allegedly stealing a laptop and wallet from a home. He was in the throes of an untreated, decades-long substance use disorder and facing a third strike plus 8 years in state prison for the burglary.

Mr. C participated in a 90-day residential drug treatment program and completed intensive outpatient treatment, where he participated in programming five days per week and received case management assistance including job placement as a security guard.

His defense team petitioned his case for Mental Health Diversion while he was in outpatient treatment, and his social worker wrote a comprehensive mitigation report detailing his personal history and participation in drug treatment. **His case was accepted, and Mr. C maintained his sobriety and employment and graduated from diversion with over two years of successful drug treatment.** His case was dismissed.

“ My mother got to see me clean, doing better for myself. I will always have that. ”

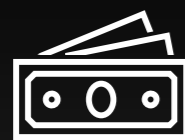


CLEAN SLATE UNIT

Filed 1,883 petitions.

1,745 petitions were granted.

93% success rate



Prosperous &
Vibrant Community



Collaboration



Crime-Free County



Eliminate Homelessness

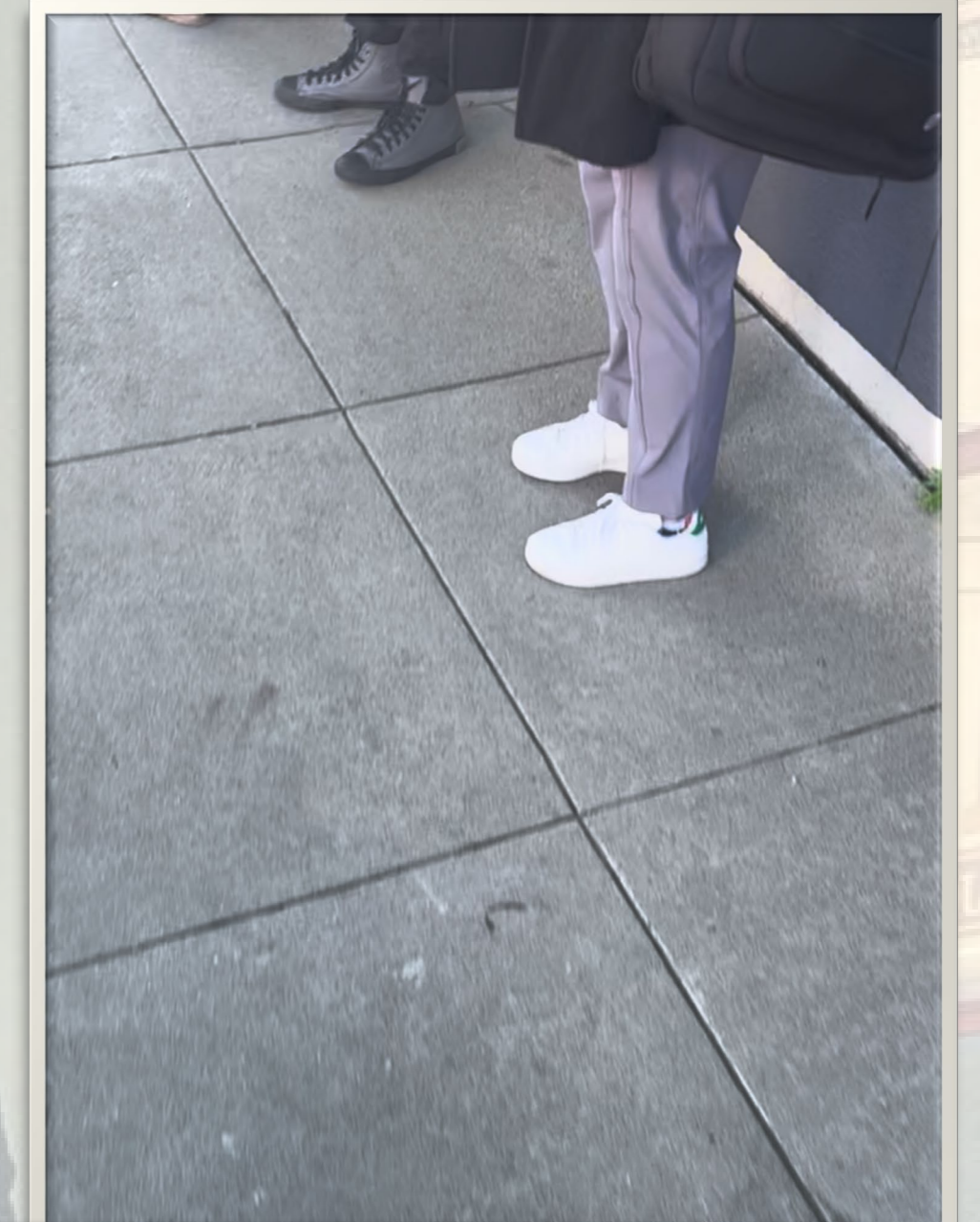
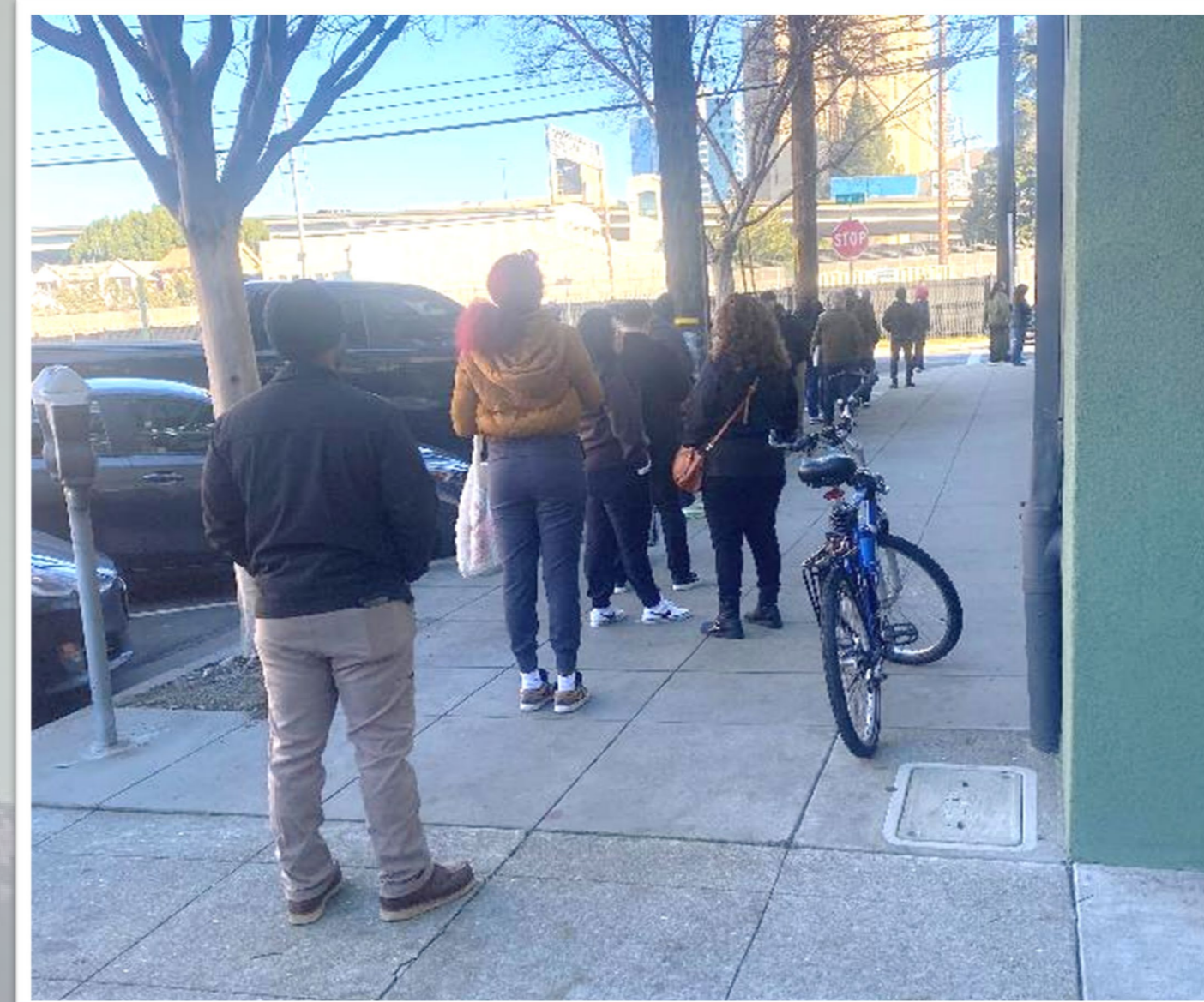


Employment for All

CLEAN SLATE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our Clean Slate Unit held 13 clinics in 2025 and attended numerous community events including:

- ROC Staff Training
- Homeless Resource & Job Fair
- CURYJ Staff Training
- ROC Intake Event
- CURYJ Information & Intake Event
- Barber Battle
- ACPDO Block Party
- Career Connections Fair
- La Familia Career Day
- BOSS Black August Block Party



CLEAN SLATE UNIT

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MS. T



Dear Sadie and the Clean Slate team,

I am incredibly grateful for the Clean Slate Program and the life-changing support you provided me.

In 2024, I came across a flyer for the program at the Oakland Housing Authority. I had no idea that something from 1997 — nearly 28 years ago — could still affect my life. I attended one of the clinics early in the morning, waited in line, and was blessed to be seen. That moment changed everything.

The Clean Slate Program successfully helped me get my case dismissed. I truly believe that without this program, I would not have been able to afford the legal process on my own.

A few months after, I started a new job working with developmentally disabled adults. The department of Social Services' Background Check Bureau issued a mandatory notice that could have resulted in my suspension. Even though my case had already been dismissed, I was facing the possibility of losing my employment because of something that happened decades ago.

Sadie went above and beyond. Even after the legal work had been completed, she continued advocating for me — making calls, writing letters, and helping me navigate a system that felt overwhelming. Because of her persistence and support, I was able to obtain my clearance and keep my job.

The Clean Slate Program didn't just dismiss an old case — it protected my livelihood and my stability. It gave me peace of mind. It gave me dignity. It gave me the ability to move forward without my past holding me back.

Programs like this truly change lives. I am living proof of that.

Thank you for everything you do for people like me.



publicdefender.acgov.org

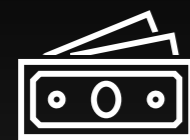




IMMIGRATION UNIT

Provided removal defense in 214 cases

Conducted 1,425 *Padilla* consults



Prosperous &
Vibrant Community



Eliminate Poverty &
Hunger



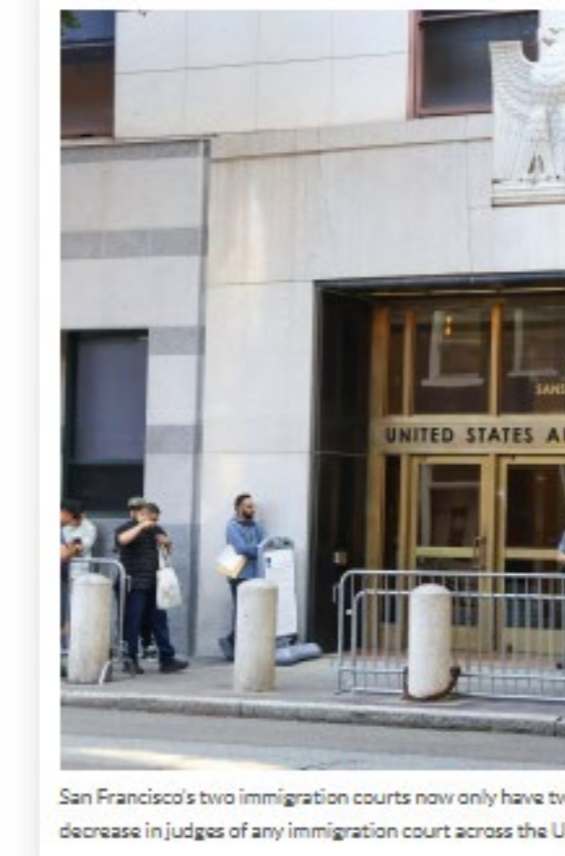
Crime-Free County



Employment for All

IMMIGRATION COMMUNITIES UNDER ATTACK

- Asylum laws are being eviscerated.
- Bond hearings have essentially been suspended for individuals without documentation.
- Executive Orders are creating less access to DHS, less access to the courts, less transparency and more chaos.
- San Francisco Immigration Court scheduled to close this year.
- Immigration judges have been fired
- Detained representation has also become increasingly difficult.
- Hearings are cancelled with little notice and rescheduled without input from counsel.



The S.F. immigration court is being dismantled. Charts show how bad it's gotten for asylum-seekers

By Christian Leonard, Staff Writer
March 30, 2026

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San Francisco's main immigration court building is set to close at 100 Montgomery St.
Les Suzuki/S.F. Chronicle



Costco Shoppers Say This \$13 Find Is the "Skin lift" in a Bottle
...Read More

hyggear.com

CLIENT ADVOCATES

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE



ELIMINATE POVERTY & HUNGER

PFJ Advocates provided food and benefit assistance to **159 clients**. **70%** of clients that received benefits support are now enrolled in benefits.



ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS

PFJ Advocates assisted **179 clients** with housing support. **72%** of clients that received housing support now have stable housing.



632 CLIENTS SERVED IN CY 2025



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

PFJ Advocates expanded access to preventative and supportive health services for **221 clients**. **64%** of clients who received mental health or substance use support completed a treatment program.



EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

PFJ Advocates helped **135 clients** obtain or keep employment. **57%** of clients that received employment support are now employed.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

PUBLIC DEFENDER

BLOCK PARTY

12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

DEFREMERY PARK
1651 Adeline St
Oakland

May 31, 2025

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDERS



SCAN ME



2025

PUBLIC DEFENDER BLOCK PARTY





LYRIC

Learn Your Rights in California

Educated over 6,200 students since implementation.

3rd Annual Holiday Gift Giveaway

Distributed over 300 gifts to children who had loved ones incarcerated during the holidays, in partnership with Campaign Zero.



HUMAN IMPACTS OF FUNDING REDUCTION



- ⊗ Increased incarceration time for Alameda County residents and community members
- ⊗ Loss of housing, employment and stability
- ⊗ Unnecessary family separation
- ⊗ Increased deportations
- ⊗ Reduced access to Clean Slate remedies and rehabilitation services
- ⊗ Reduced number of clients we are able to serve

The background of the slide is a photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento, California, taken at dusk. The building's iconic dome is illuminated from within, and the sky is a deep, clear blue. The architecture features classical elements like columns and a pediment. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WITH BUDGET IMPACTS

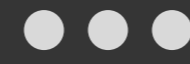
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Racial Justice Act (AB 1071)

Proposition 36

California Public Defense Workloads and Staffing (AB 625)

RACIAL JUSTICE ACT



Prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a conviction, or imposing a sentence based on race, ethnicity or national origin.

- ✓ ONE PUBLIC DEFENDER DEDICATED AS RJA ATTORNEY
- ✓ IN 2025, COMPLETED 180 RJA CONSULTS
(Meetings with attorneys to strategize and develop an RJA action plan)
- ✓ 14 CASES – FILED MOTIONS FOR RELEVANT DATA
100% granted
- ✓ 14 CASES – RJA MOTIONS FILED
- ✓ 22 CASES - DISMISSED
- ✓ 29 NEW RJA CASE REFERRALS FROM THE COURT AND IN-CUSTODY CLIENTS, NOT INCLUDING THE 35 PREVIOUS REFERRALS

PROPOSITION 36



Over **300** new theft related felonies since the passage of Prop 36.

People charged with felonies for stealing – two bottles of wine valued at \$23, a bike lock valued at \$20, a belt valued at \$12.99.

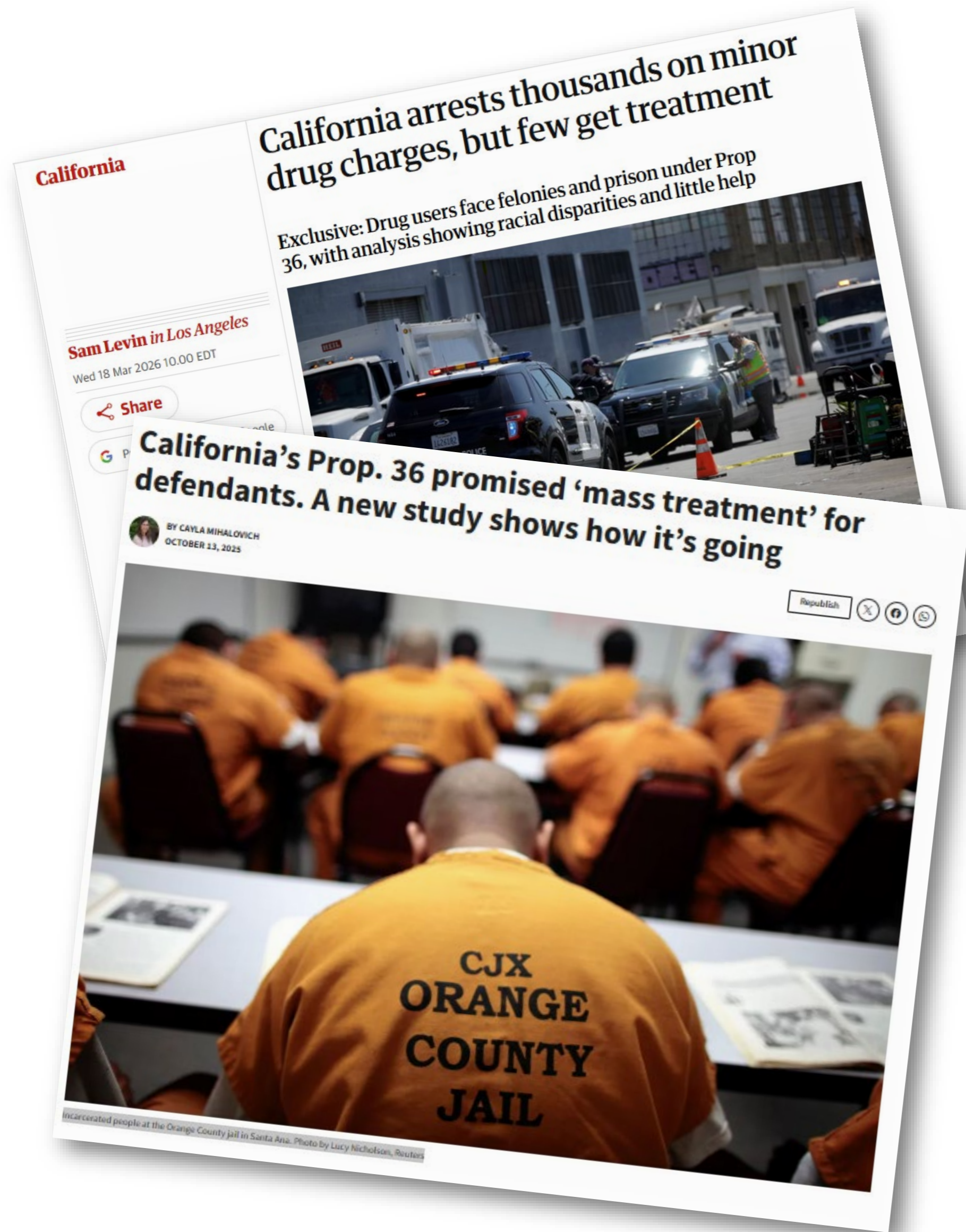
Racial Disparities in Charging

76%

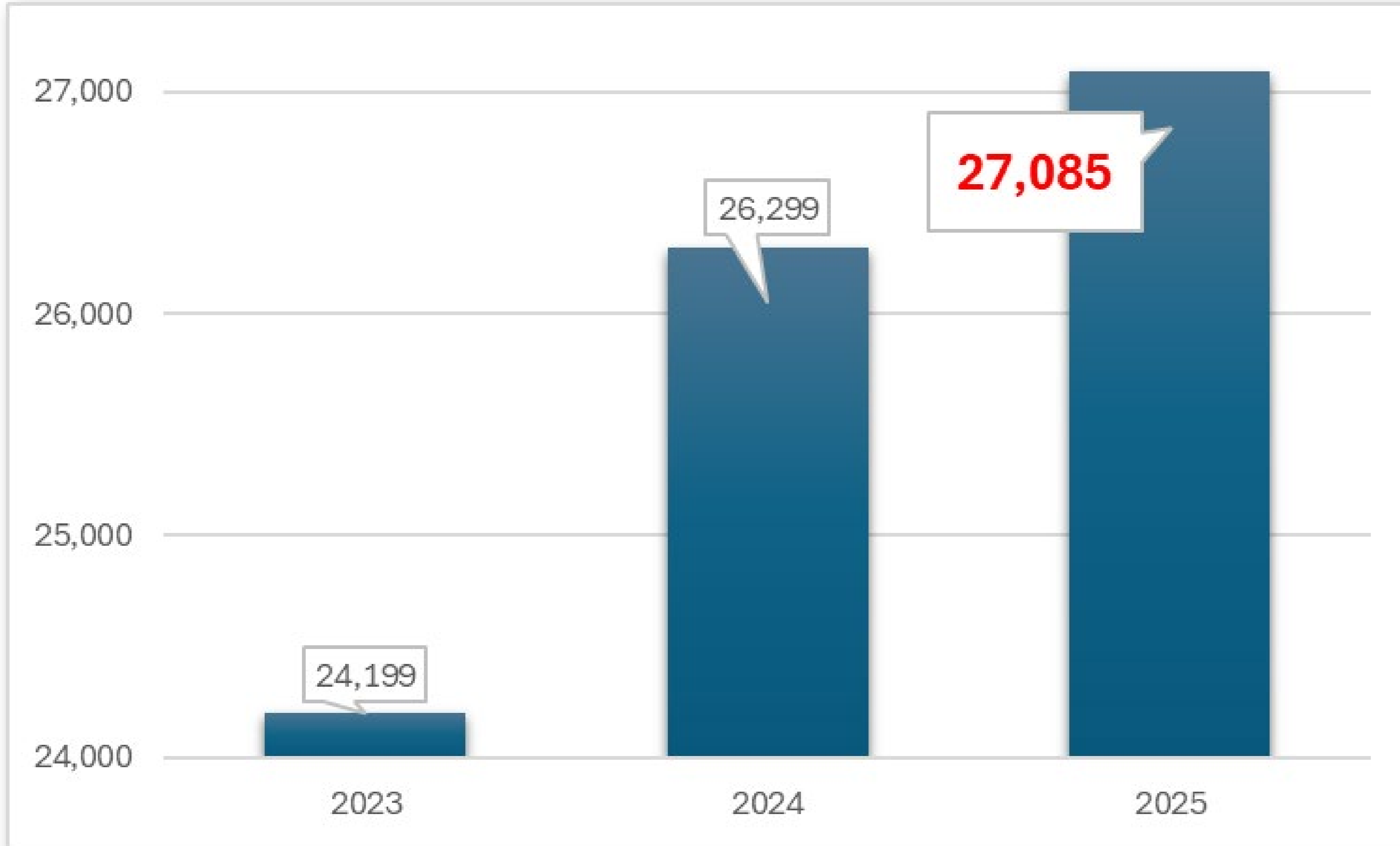
of our felony Prop 36 clients in north Alameda County have been Black.

81%

of our felony Prop 36 clients countywide have been people of color.



CASES OPENED

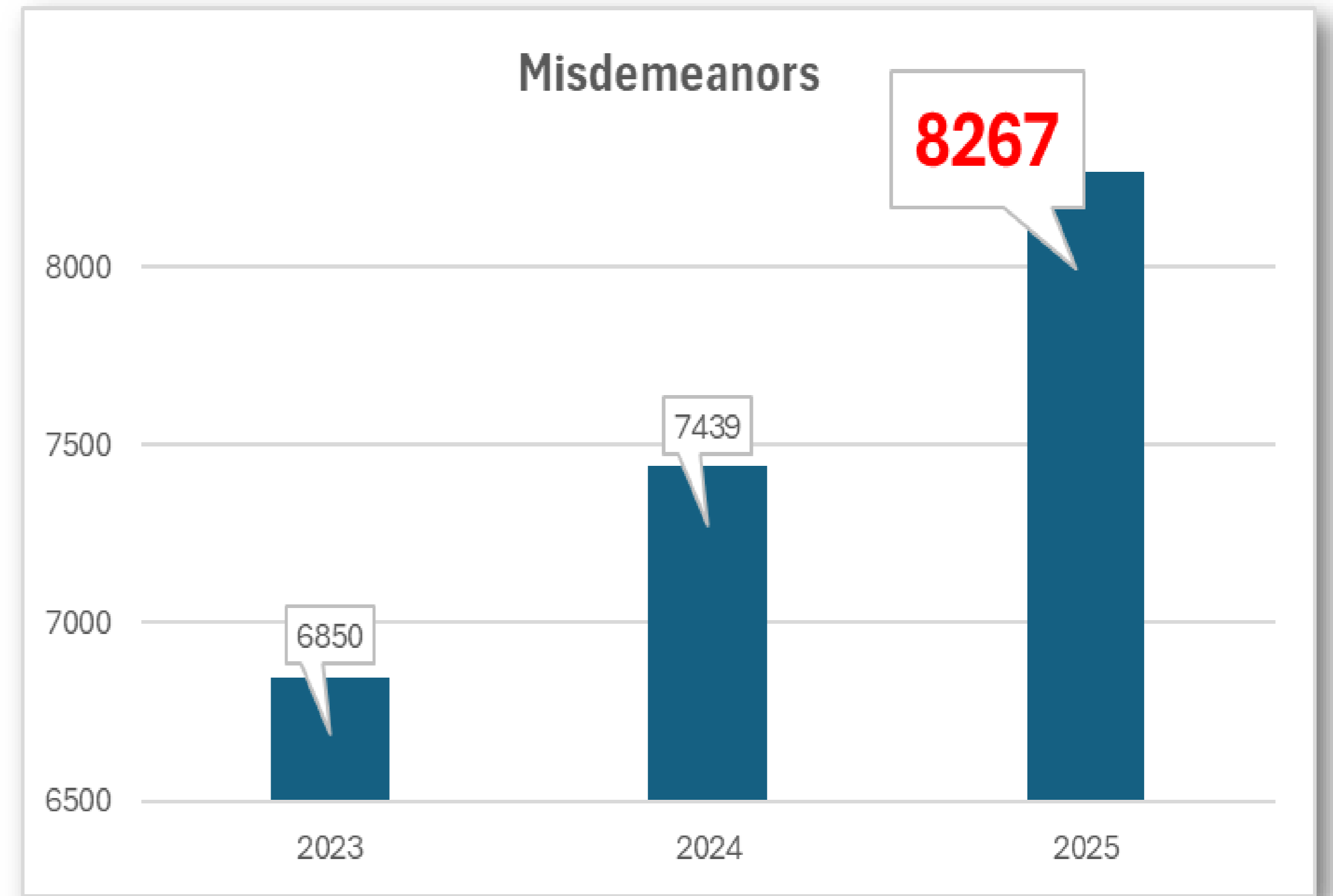
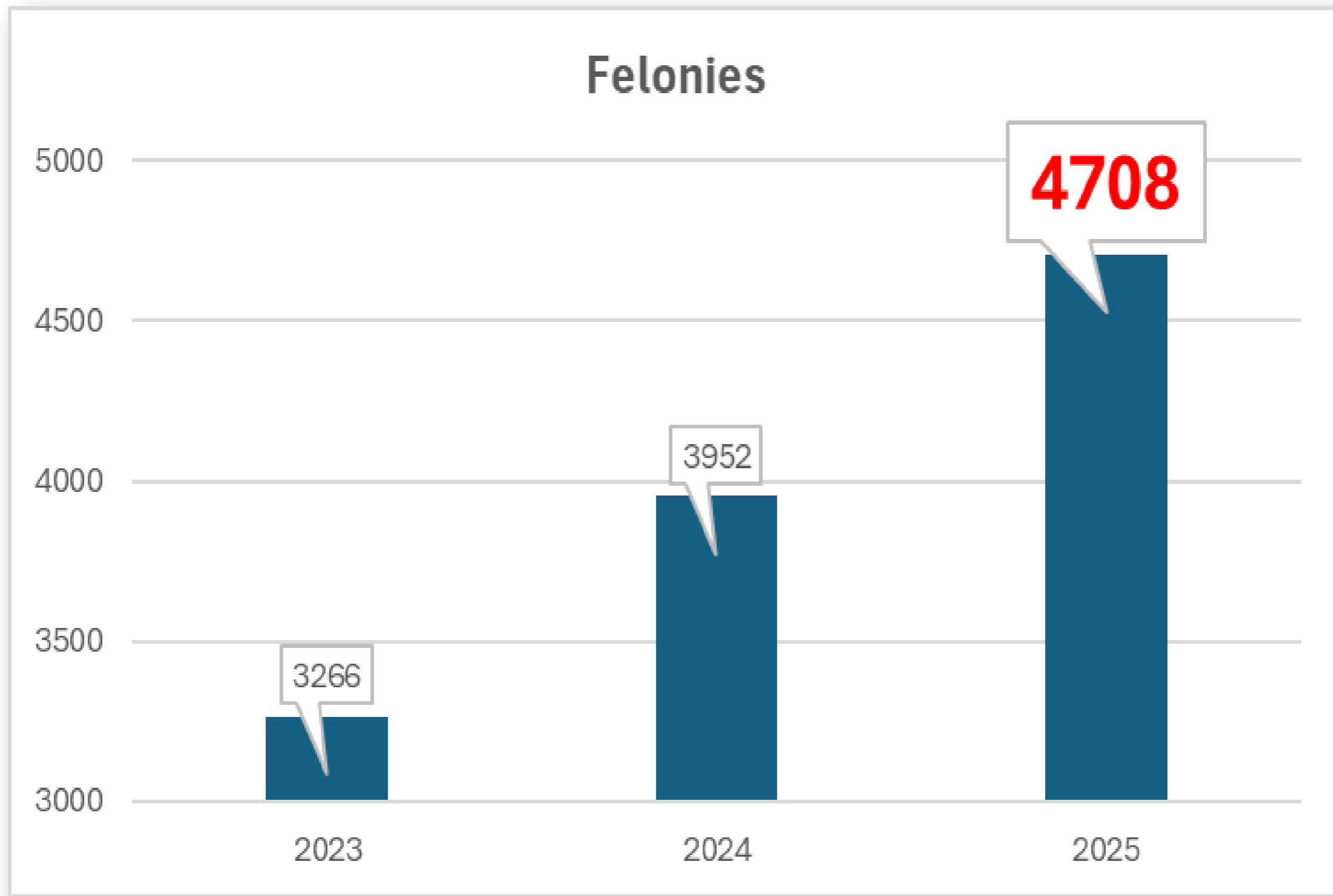


Since 2023, there's been an increase of 2,886 new cases opened.

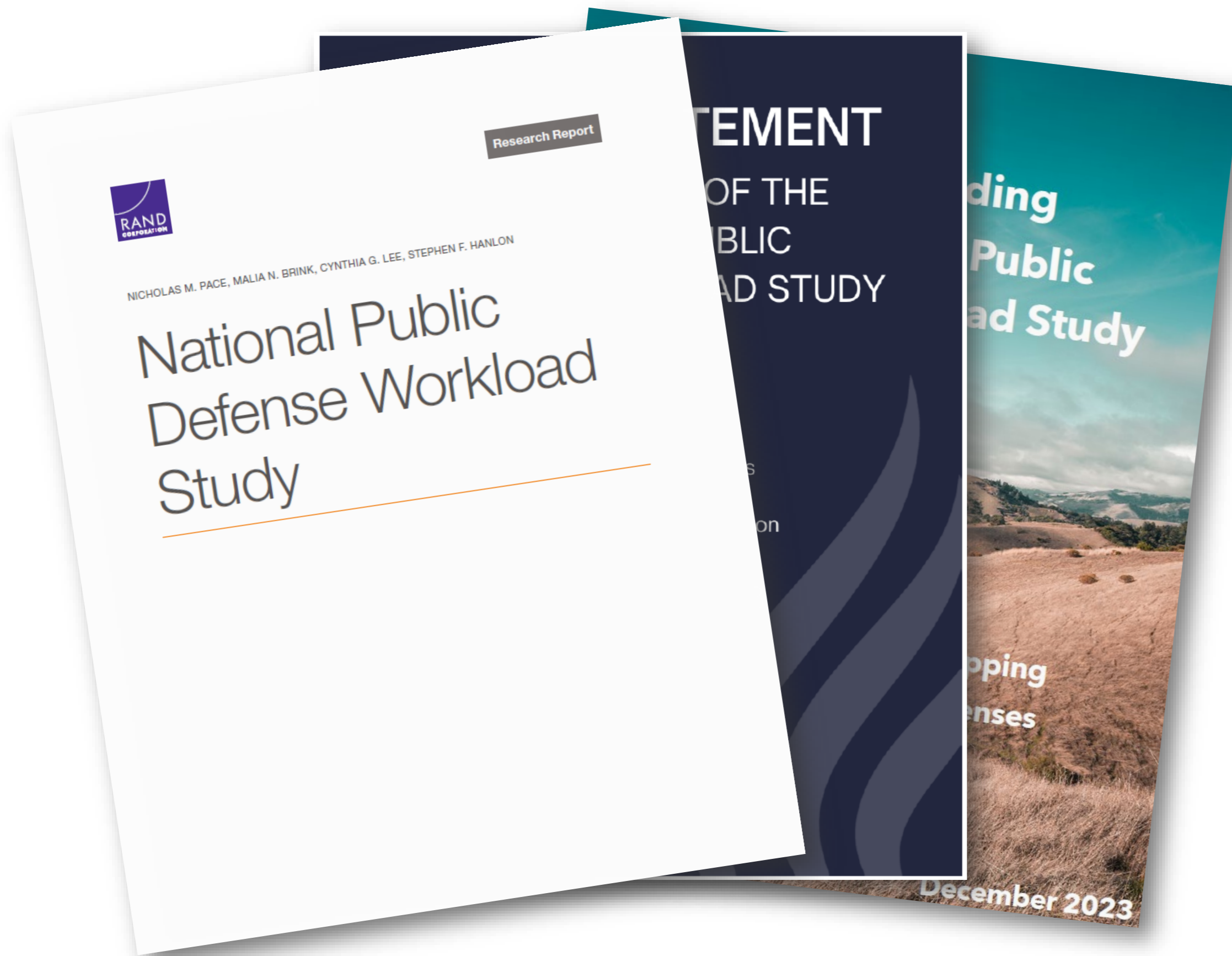
MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT



Since 2023, there has been a steady increase of felony and misdemeanor cases accepted. These numbers justify an increase of 32 additional attorneys.



NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENSE WORKLOAD STUDY



- Our office would need **104 additional attorneys** to satisfy the workload guidelines, assuming our attorneys worked 2,080 hours a year, not accounting for holidays or vacations.
- 104 Deputy Public Defenders would be **\$39.5 million dollars**.
- The District Attorney's budget would still be slightly larger than the Public Defender's budget.

AB 625



AB 625 Recommendations:

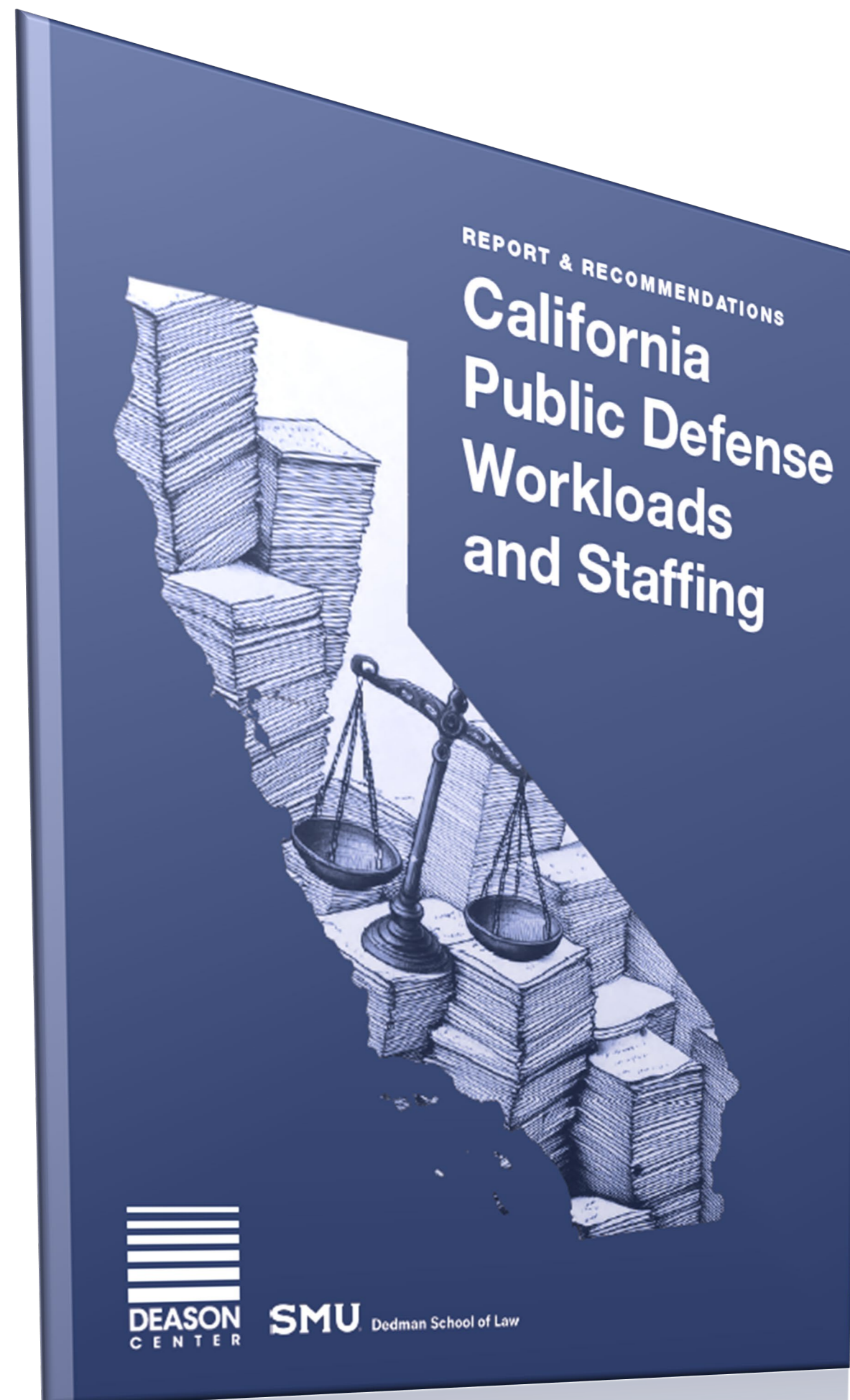
- 2 Attorneys : 1 Investigator
- 3 Attorneys : 1 Social worker
- 4 Attorneys : 1 Paralegal
- 4 Attorneys : 1 Administrative Staff (*legal secretary/clerk*)

Current Staffing

129 Attorneys	22 Social Workers/Advocates
31 Support Staff	19 Investigators

According to AB 625 recommendations, we are short...

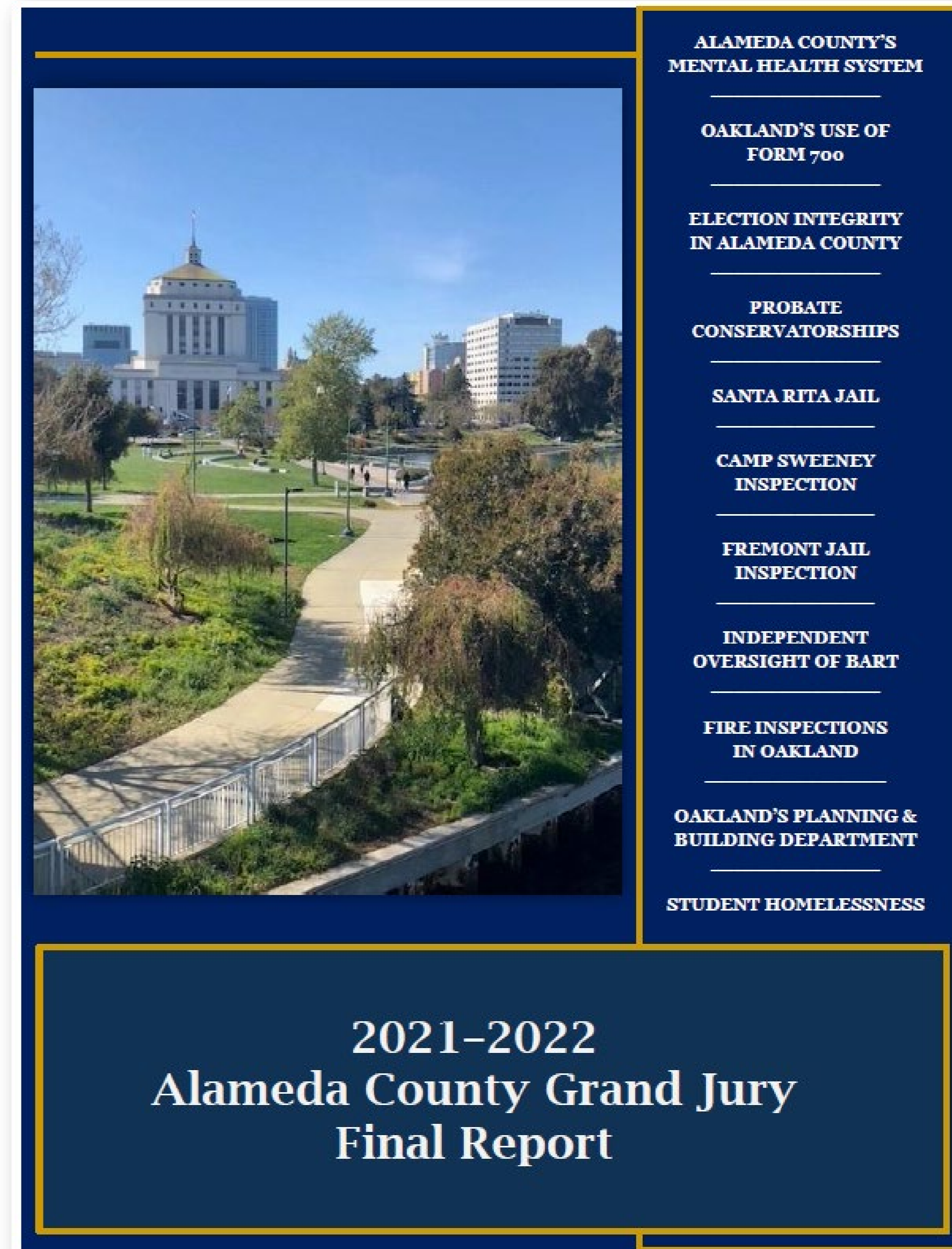
45	Investigators
21	Social Workers
32	Paralegals
1	Admin Staff



DEASON CENTER SMU Dedman School of Law

DEASON CENTER SMU Dedman School of Law

“By all accounts, the Public Defender is severely underfunded...”



ALAMEDA COUNTY'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

OAKLAND'S USE OF FORM 700

ELECTION INTEGRITY IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

PROBATE CONSERVATORSHIPS

SANTA RITA JAIL

CAMP SWEENEY INSPECTION

FREMONT JAIL INSPECTION

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT OF BART

FIRE INSPECTIONS IN OAKLAND

OAKLAND'S PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

**2021-2022
Alameda County Grand Jury
Final Report**



We are still fighting for clients and
our community!

