



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW CRIMINAL DIVISION BUDGET ASKS

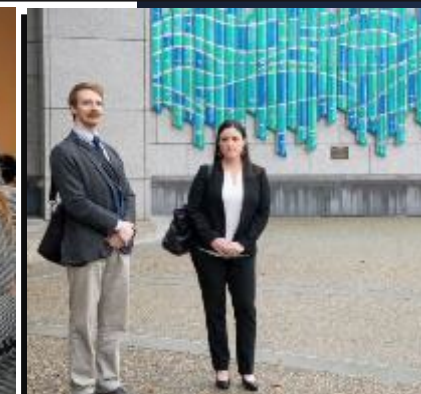
Angie Kemp
Division Director
Criminal Division

House Finance Law Subcommittee
February 14, 2025

CRIMINAL DIVISION

MISSION

The mission of the Criminal Division is to seek justice, promote public safety and public respect for government through prompt, effective, and compassionate prosecution of cases. The Criminal Division will prosecute cases in a manner that advocates for the interests of the public – especially victims, respects the law enforcement agencies, responsibly stewards public resources, and holds offenders accountable while at the same time protecting the constitutional and legal rights of the accused.





HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

What we do

Prosecute violations of
state criminal law

What we do not do

Prosecute violations of
federal criminal laws

Prosecute violations of
municipal criminal laws

Prosecute traffic tickets



TYPES OF CASES

Violent: Homicide, Robbery, Assault, Kidnapping, Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse of Minor

Property: Theft, Burglary, Criminal Mischief, Forgery, Fraud

Drugs: Possession and Distribution

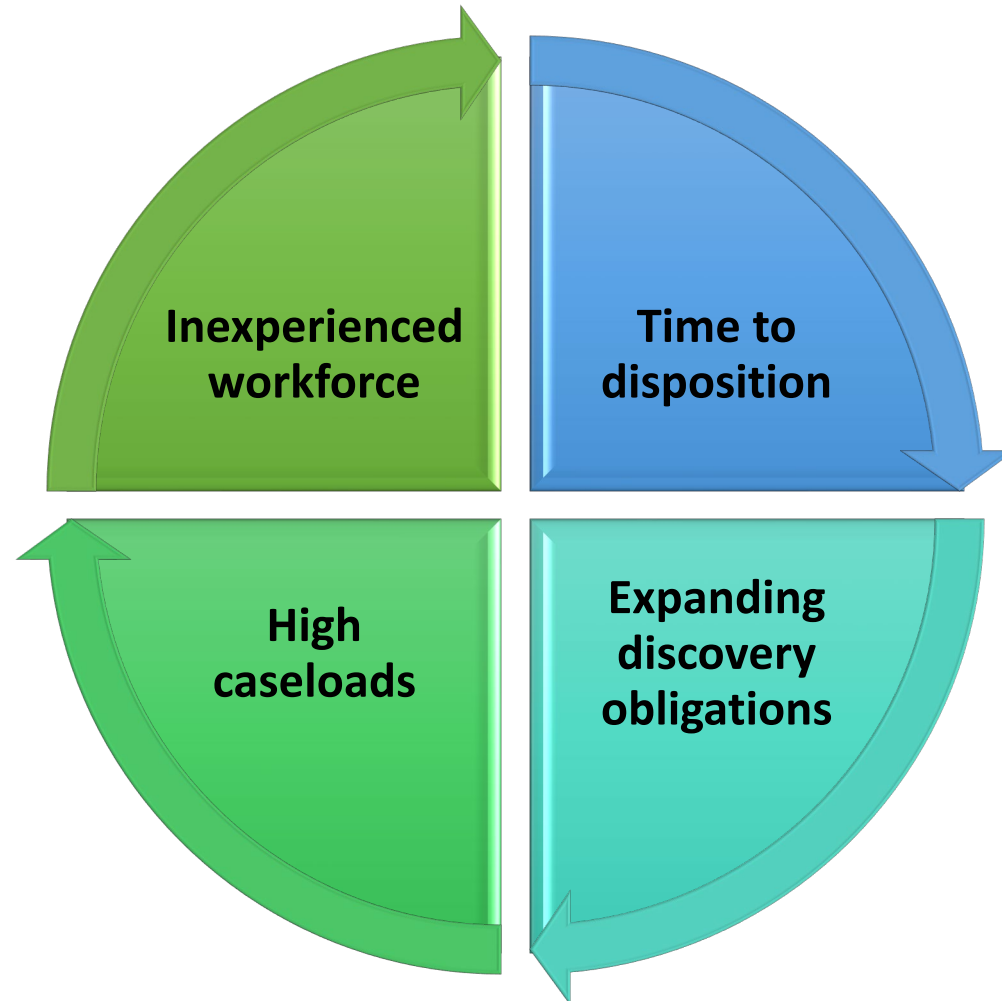
Driving Under the Influence

Misc: MIW, Escape, Perjury, Fish and Game, etc.

Appeals



KEY ISSUES IMPACTING OUR WORK



TIME TO DISPOSITION



Misdemeanors 1-1.5 years

Felonies 2-3 years

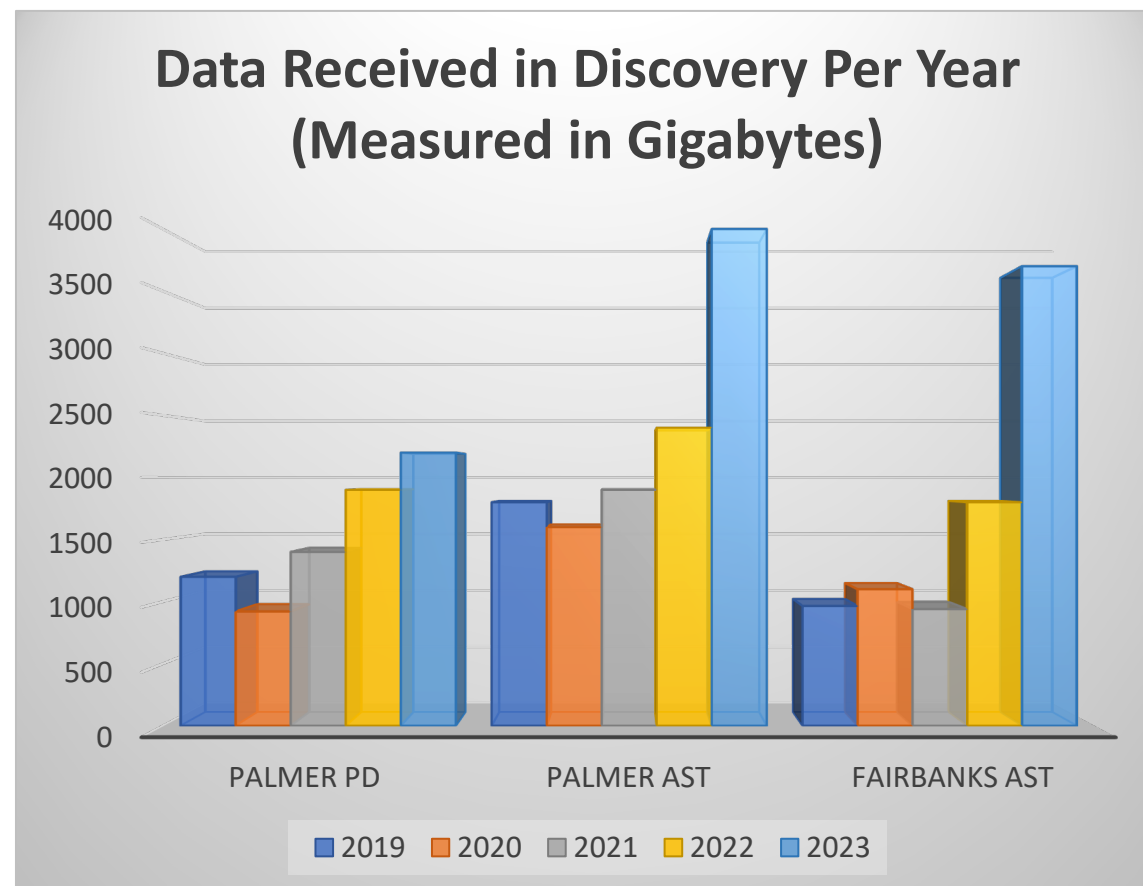
Appeals 3-5 years

Justice delayed is justice denied.



EXPANDING DISCOVERY OBLIGATIONS

- Digital evidence (new types of evidence)
- Impeachment material (*Brady/Giglio*)
- Dept. of Law's approach to managing these issues





OFFICES WITH THE HIGHEST CASELOADS

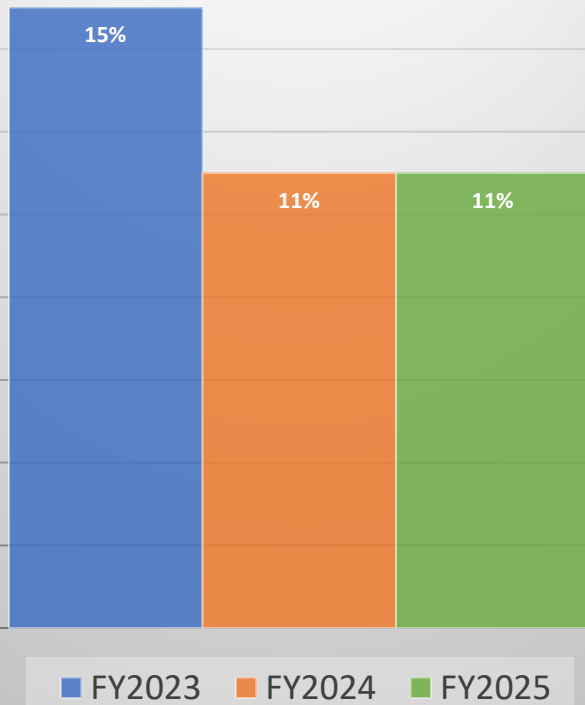
| CASELOADS | Dillingham (1 Prosecutor) | Palmer (11 Prosecutors) | Ketchikan (3 Prosecutors) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Total: Felony and Misdemeanors | 289 | 2783 | 554 |
| Total Felonies | 109 including 28 Murders, SAMs, and SAs | 909 including 112 Murders, SAMs, and SAs | 139 including 15 Murders, SAMs, and SAs |
| Average Open Caseload <u>Per</u> <u>Prosecutor</u> | 289 | 253 | 185 |

- Caseload averages are based on total number of positions (assumes 100% full)
- Rarely fully staffed
- Vacancy factor: assumes vacancies

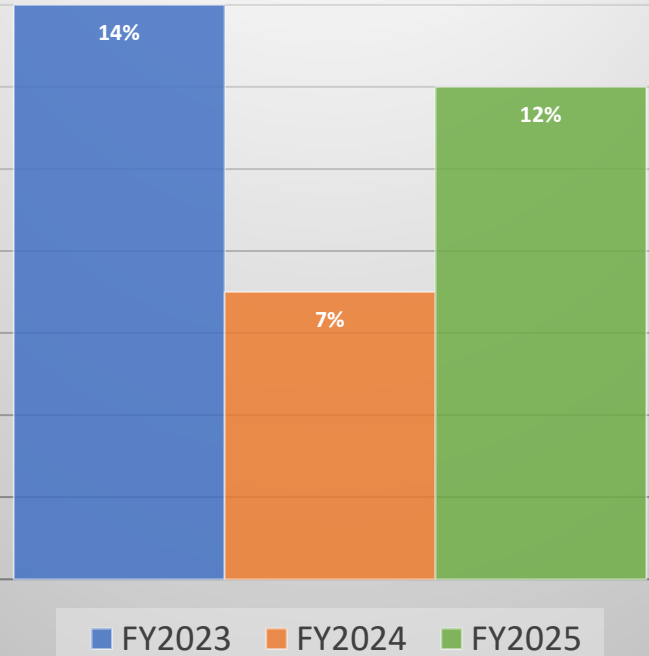


VACANCY RATES: IMPROVING BUT THE WORK ISN'T DONE

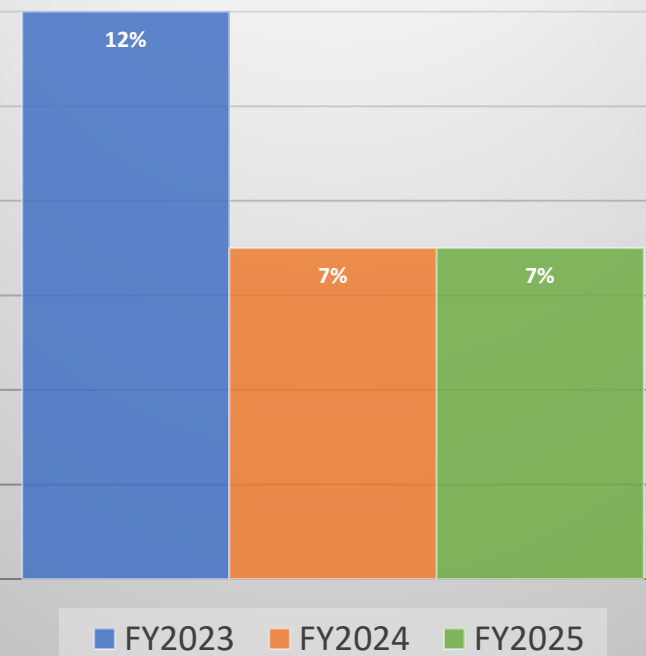
Attorney Vacancy Rates Comparison



Support Staff Vacancy Rates Comparison



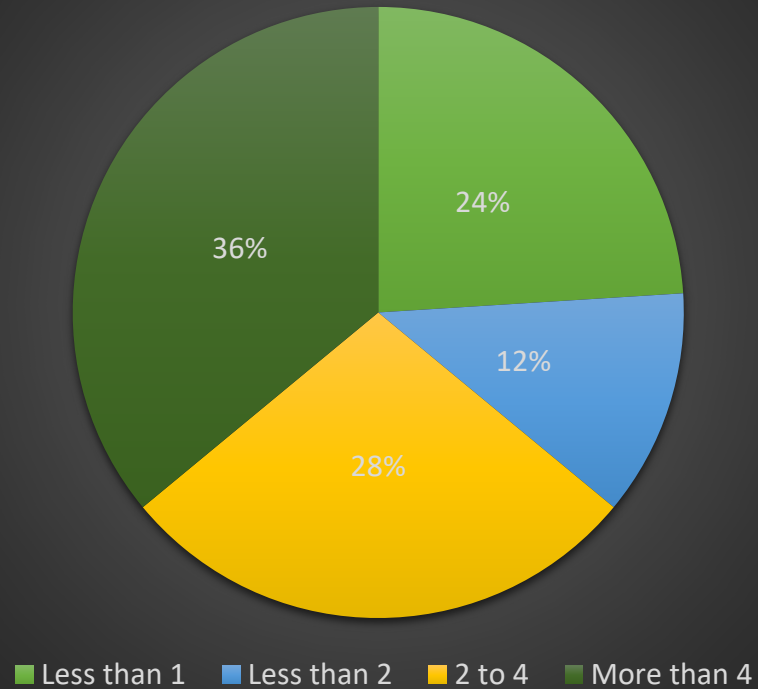
Paralegal Vacancy Rates Comparison



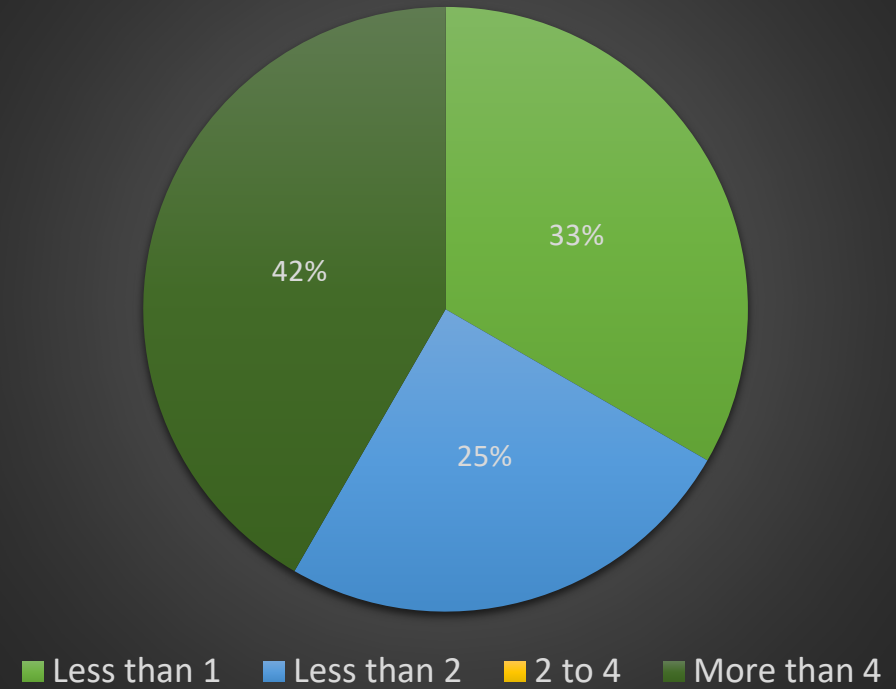


APPLICANT PROFILE: STATEWIDE COMPARISON

FY2024



FY2025



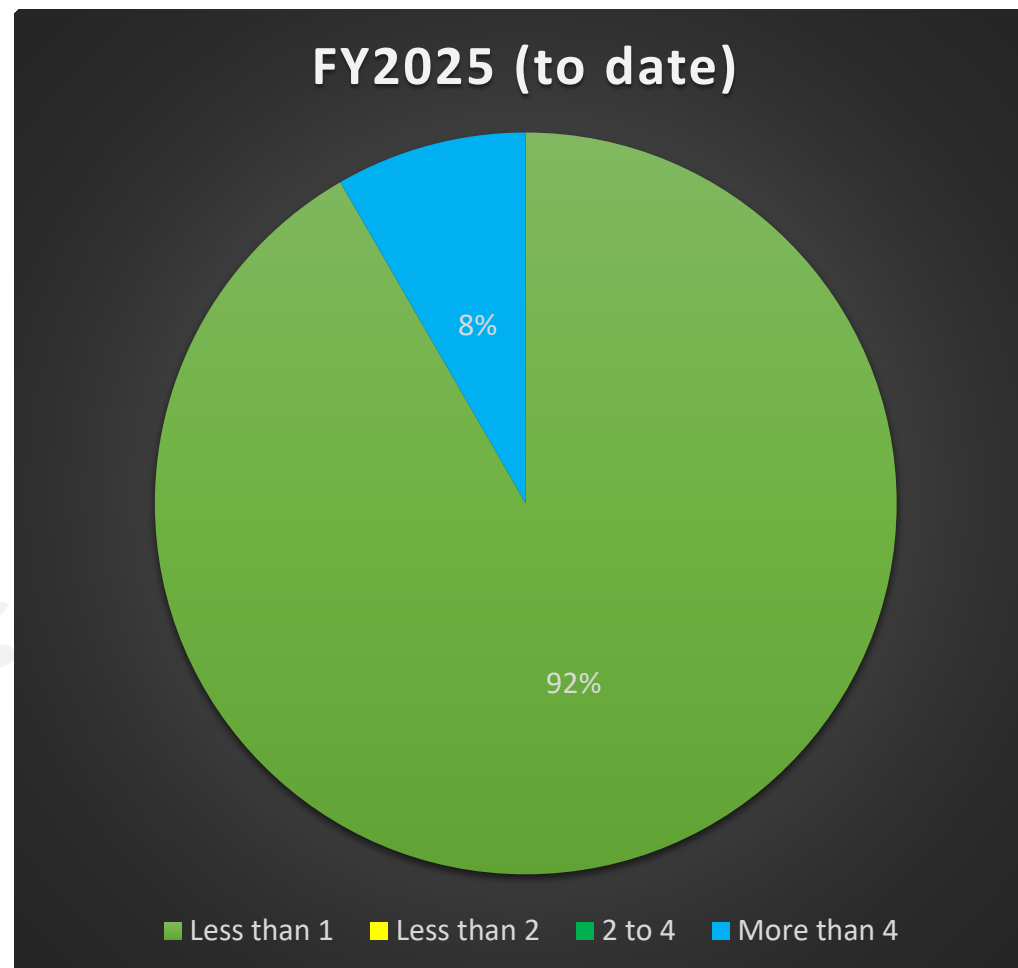
***Measured in the number of years the employee has been *licensed* as an attorney and based on attorneys who have started in their positions.



APPLICANT PROFILE:

ANCHORAGE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Largest office with 37 prosecutors
- Hired 12 prosecutors in FY2025
- 11 have little or no prosecution experience



HOW INEXPERIENCE IMPACTS OUR WORK

- **Leads to burnout:**
 - More senior prosecutors responsible for an increased share of serious cases
 - Less experienced prosecutors responsible for cases beyond their skills
- **Reduced efficiency**
 - Contributes to delays
 - Impacts the quality of the prosecution



STRATEGIC PLAN

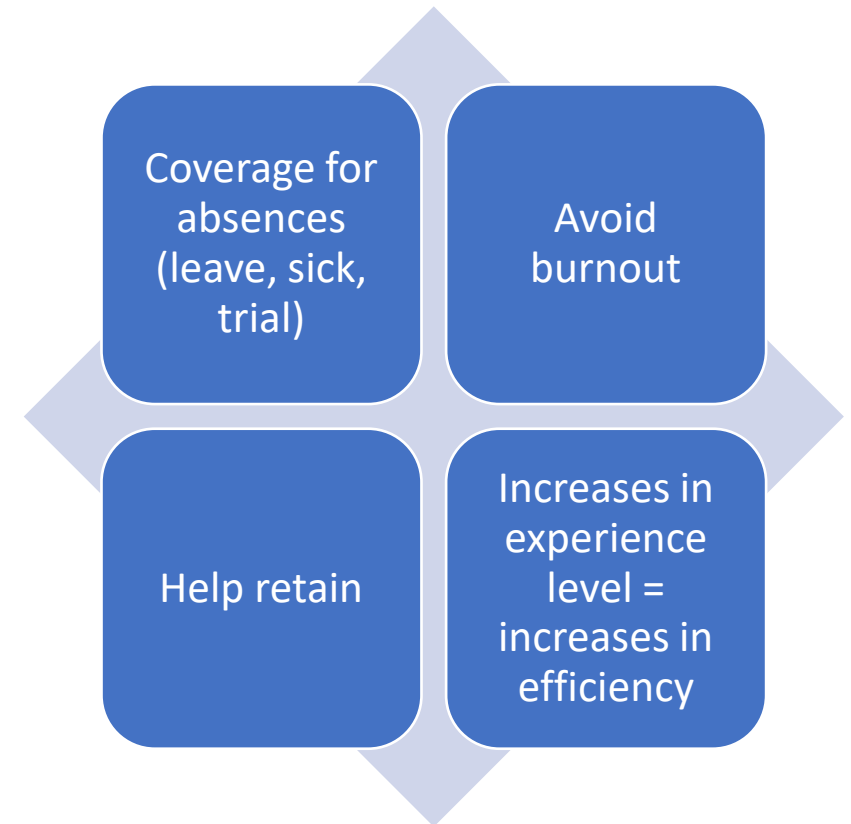
- **REDUCE CASELOADS**
- **SPECIALIZED POSITIONS: *BRADY* AND POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (PCR) TO ALLOW PROSECUTORS TO FOCUS ON CORE WORK**



REQUEST: CASELOAD REDUCTION



- 3 ATTORNEY POSITIONS (V)
- PARALEGAL
- LAW OFFICE ASSISTANT (LOA)



REQUEST: *BRADY*PROSECUTOR



Manage *Brady*
disclosures & 400+
alerts



Address efforts to
expand scope



Serve as a liaison to
law enforcement
agencies



Allow line
prosecutor to focus
on core work



POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (PCR)

What is a PCR?

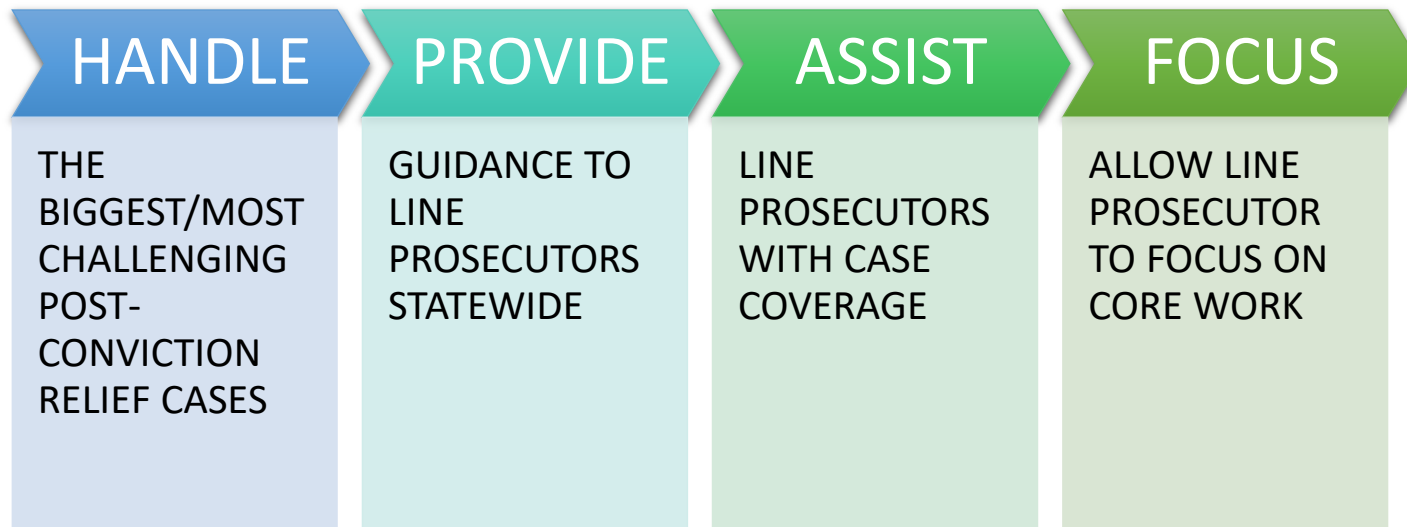
376 pending PCRs

Work of PCRs

- civil discovery
- review old files & old court records
- different legal issues/standards

| FY Year PCR was filed | # of Cases |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 2000 - 2009 | 6 |
| 2012 - 2015 | 15 |
| 2016 - 2019 | 68 |
| 2020 | 40 |
| 2021 | 30 |
| 2022 | 44 |
| 2023 | 47 |
| 2024 | 80 |
| 2025 | 46 |
| Grand Total | 376 |

REQUEST: A POST-CONVICTION RELIEF PROSECUTOR AND SUPPORT STAFF





WHAT IS HELPING?



Increase in pay



Paid internship program



Increase in positions



Focus on training



Leverage technology

QUESTIONS

Angie Kemp

Division Director

Criminal Division

(907) 465-3600

Angie.kemp@alaska.gov

