



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General
Civil Division

John Skidmore

Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division

House LAW Finance

February 21, 2025



LEADERSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW



Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General
Civil Division



Treg Taylor

Attorney General



John Skidmore

Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division



Rachel Witty

Director
Civil Division



Stacie Kraly

Director
Civil Division



Amber Leblanc

Director
Administrative Services Division



Angie Kemp

Director
Criminal Division



OUR MISSION

The Department of Law upholds the rule of law, protects public safety, and provides high quality legal representation to executive branch agencies for the benefit of all Alaskans.

CIVIL DIVISION

To provide high-quality legal services to the executive branch.



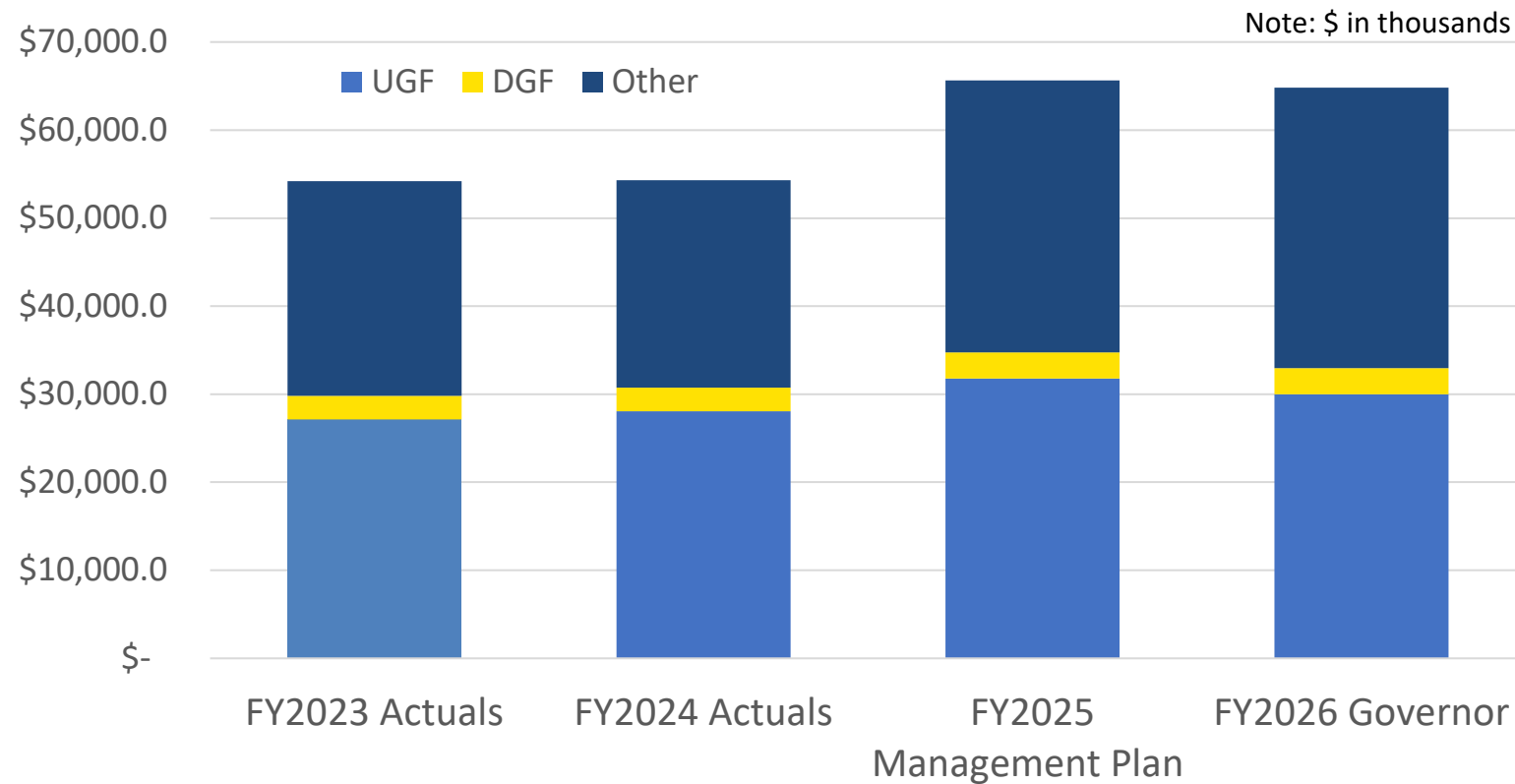
BIGGEST LAW FIRM IN THE STATE



- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Alaska Court System
- Department of Public Safety
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Department of Education and Early Development
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Office of the Governor
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Health
- Department of Administration
- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
- Department of Family and Community Services

FY 2024 Total Hours= 206,261

FUNDING SOURCES



Funding Source	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Management Plan	FY2026 Governor
Unrestricted General Fund (UGF)	\$ 27,143.0	\$ 28,048.8	\$ 31,784.9	\$ 29,988.5
Designated General Fund (DGF)	\$ 2,677.2	\$ 2,704.2	\$ 2,955.2	\$ 2,966.5
Other	\$ 24,382.1	\$ 23,549.5	\$ 30,903.0	\$ 31,862.9
Total	\$ 54,202.3	\$ 54,302.5	\$ 65,643.1	\$ 64,817.9

FY2024 MONIES COLLECTED



Note: \$ in thousands

Human Services
\$3,872.0

Labor & State Affairs
\$167.1

Natural Resources
\$6.1

Public Corporations
& Governmental
Services
\$728.7

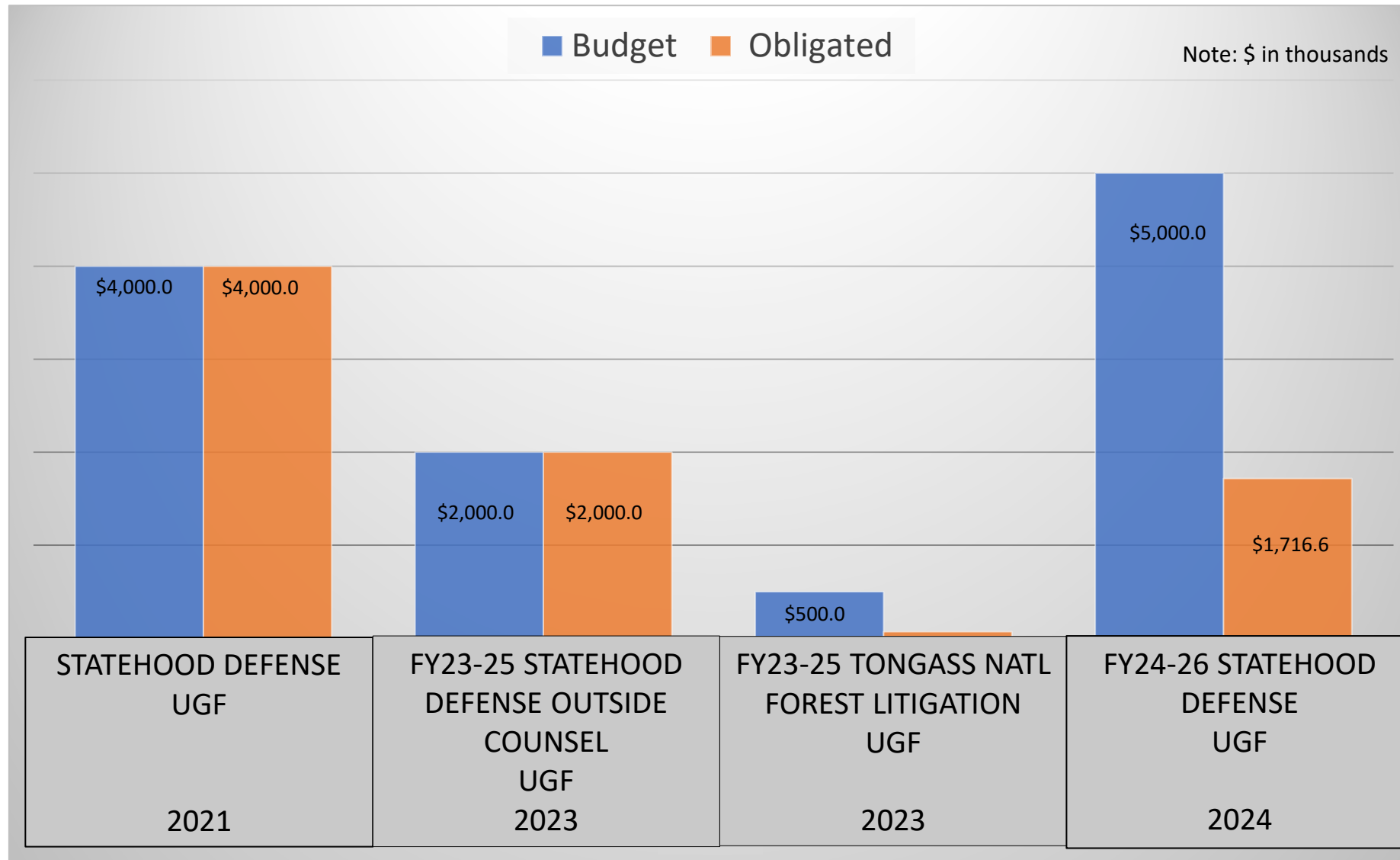
Special Litigation
\$14,197.1

Torts, Workers'
Compensation,
& Corrections
\$301.2

\$19,272.3*

*Does not include approx. \$100,000.0 secured for opioid remediation

MULTI-YEAR STATEHOOD DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS



REQUESTING CONTINUATION OF TEMPORARY INCREMENT



Last session, the Legislature approved a \$500.0 temporary increment for FY2025, intending to add the same increment for three years

This increment would total \$1,500.0 million over three years
(down from the \$6,000.0 million that was previously requested)

For FY2026, request to continue with the Legislature's intent for \$500.0

Note: \$ in thousands

LABOR RELATIONS FUNDING



TRANSFERRED FOUR POSITIONS AND ADDED ONE NEW POSITION TO SUPERVISE THE SECTION - \$806,000

- Positions are already transferred, paid through RSA
- Transfer moves the positions to LAW's budget
- Net increase of only one position to head up the new section

In the three arbitrations LAW handled last year, the unions demanded over \$6,000.0

Discipline arbitration: State prevailed; union had to pay arbitrator's fee

Pay and contracting arbitrations: State mitigated millions of dollars in damages

- Pay issues arbitration: \$3.9 mitigated
- Contracting arbitration: \$976.4 mitigated

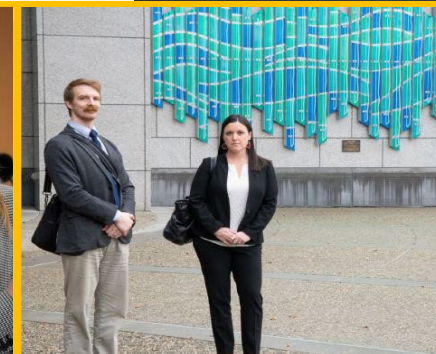
TOTAL MITIGATION: \$4,876.4

Note: \$ in thousands

CRIMINAL DIVISION

MISSION

- ❖ To seek justice
- ❖ Promote public safety and public respect for government through prompt, effective, and compassionate prosecution of cases



CRIMINAL DIVISION ORGANIZATION



Appeals
Tamara DeLucia



Special Prosecutions
Jenna Gruenstein



Nome
John Earthman



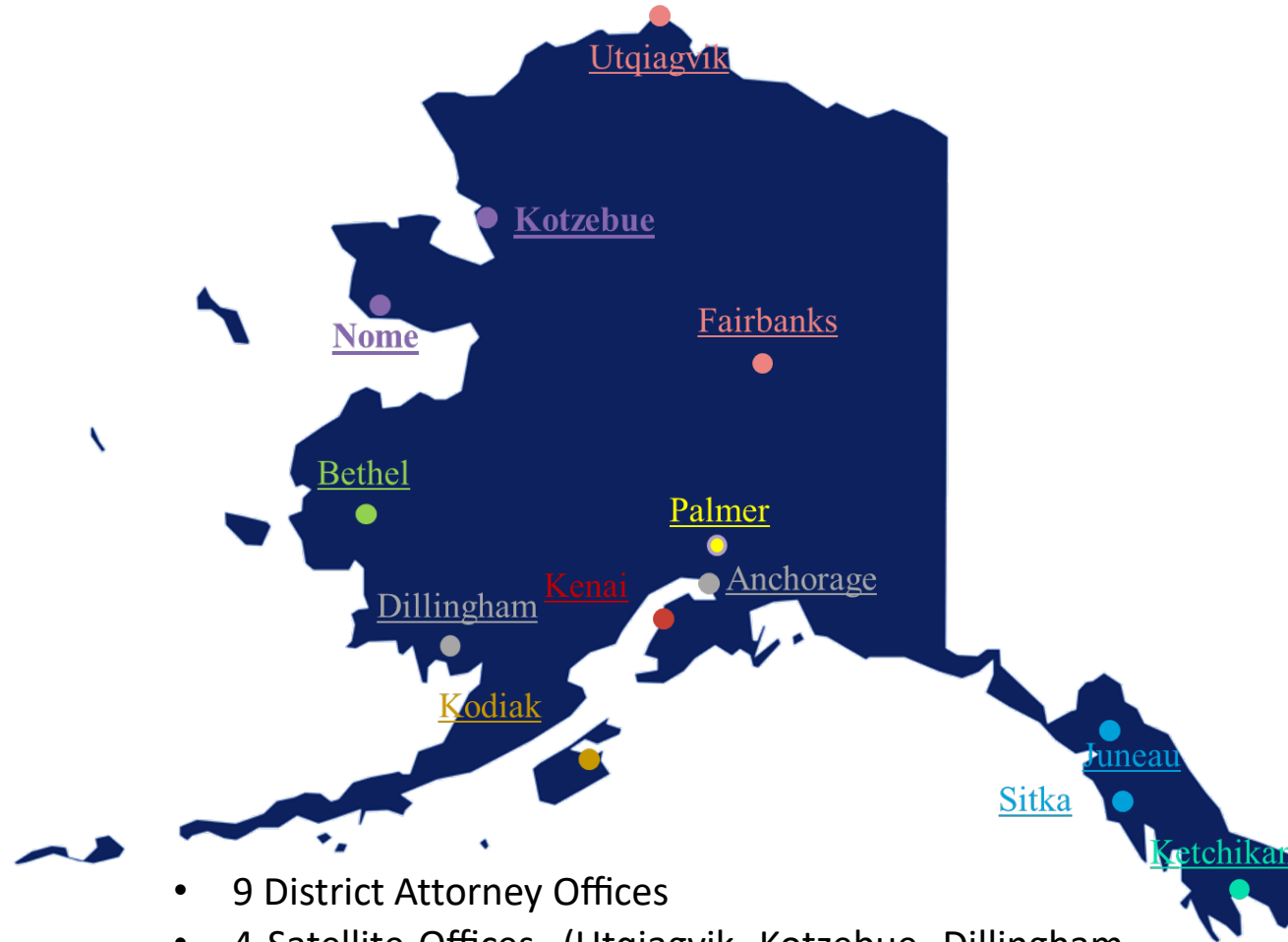
Fairbanks
Joe Dallaire



Bethel
Mark Clark



Kodiak
William Vitkus



Palmer
Trina. Sears



Anchorage
Brittany Dunlop



Kenai
Dan Strigle



Juneau
Whitney Bostick



Ketchikan
Alex Kramarczuk

- 9 District Attorney Offices
- 4 Satellite Offices (Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, Dillingham, Sitka)
- Office of Special Prosecutions
- Office of Criminal Appeals
- Central Office





HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

What we do

Prosecute violations of
state criminal law

What we do not do

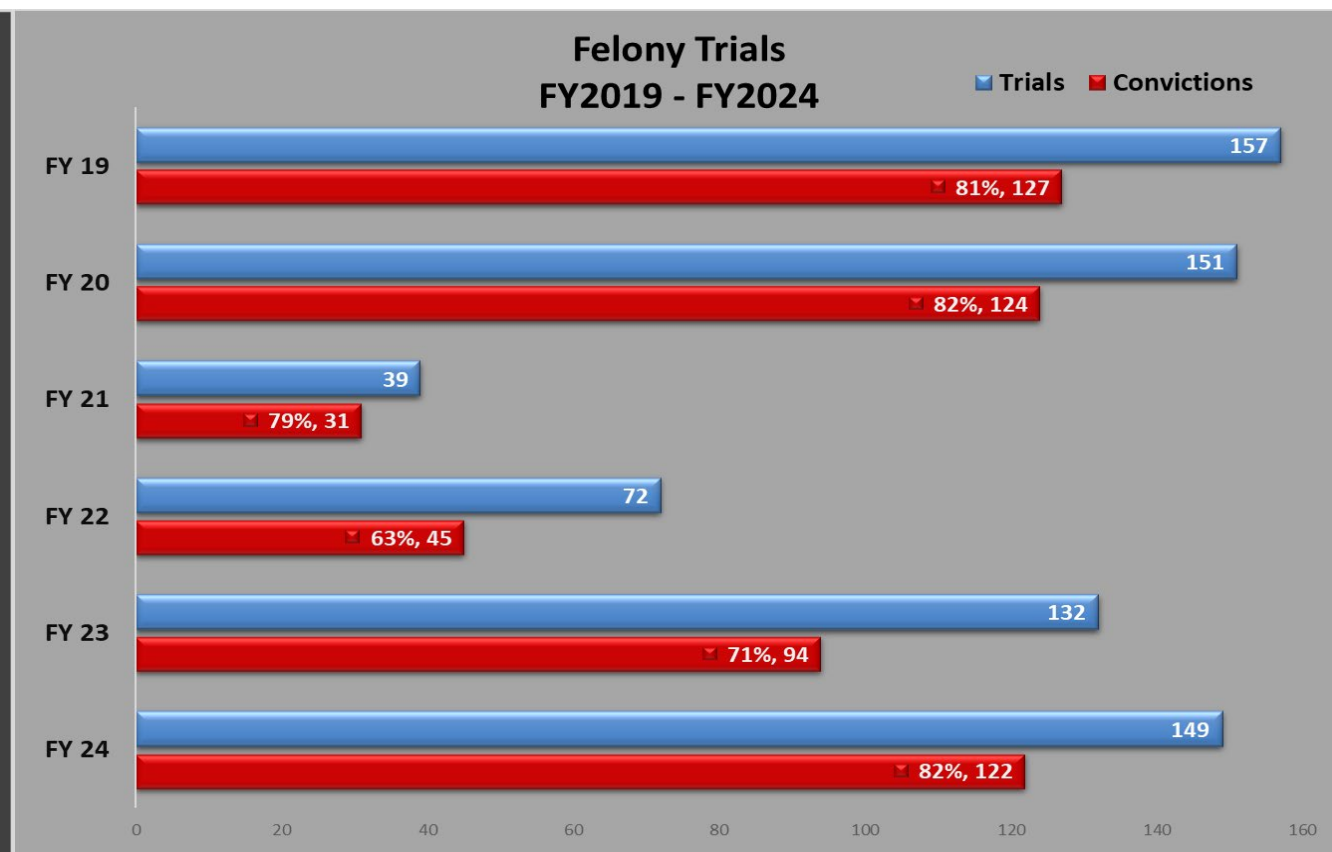
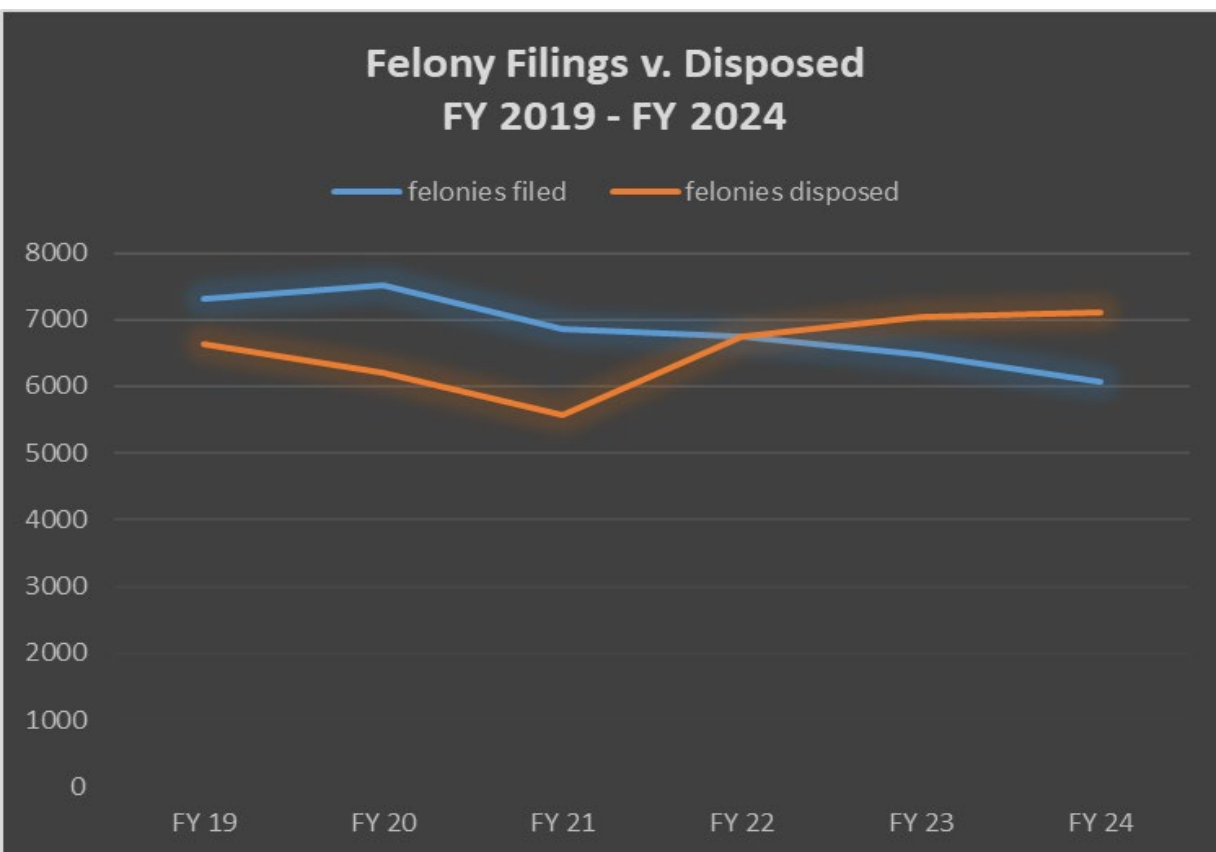
Prosecute violations of
federal criminal laws

Prosecute violations of
municipal criminal laws

Prosecute traffic tickets

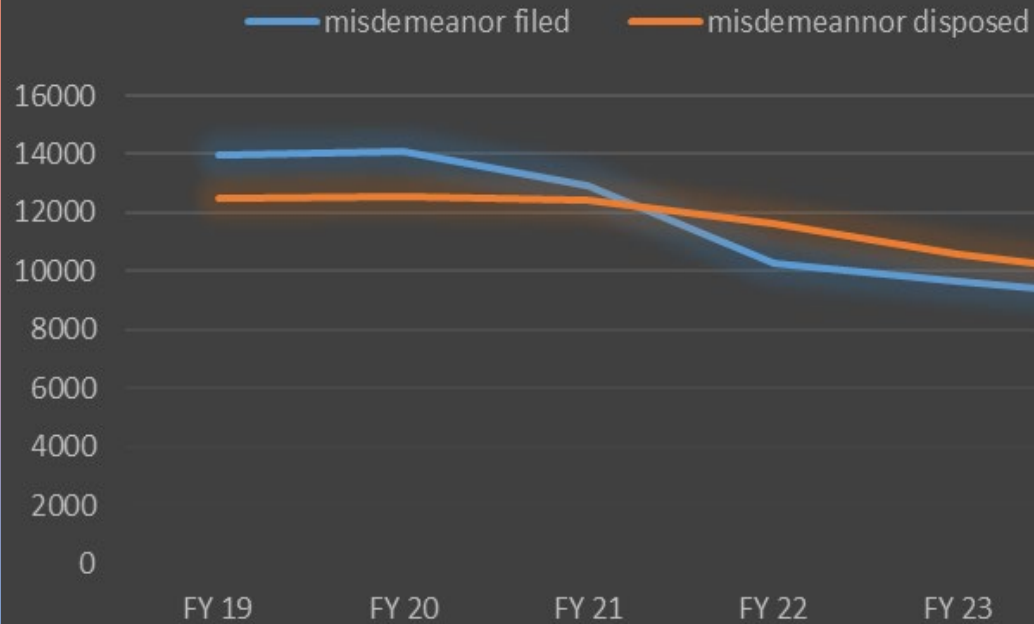
FELONIES

- More cases disposed than filed
- Number of felony trials increasing
- Conviction rate returning
- Crime rate at 40-year lows

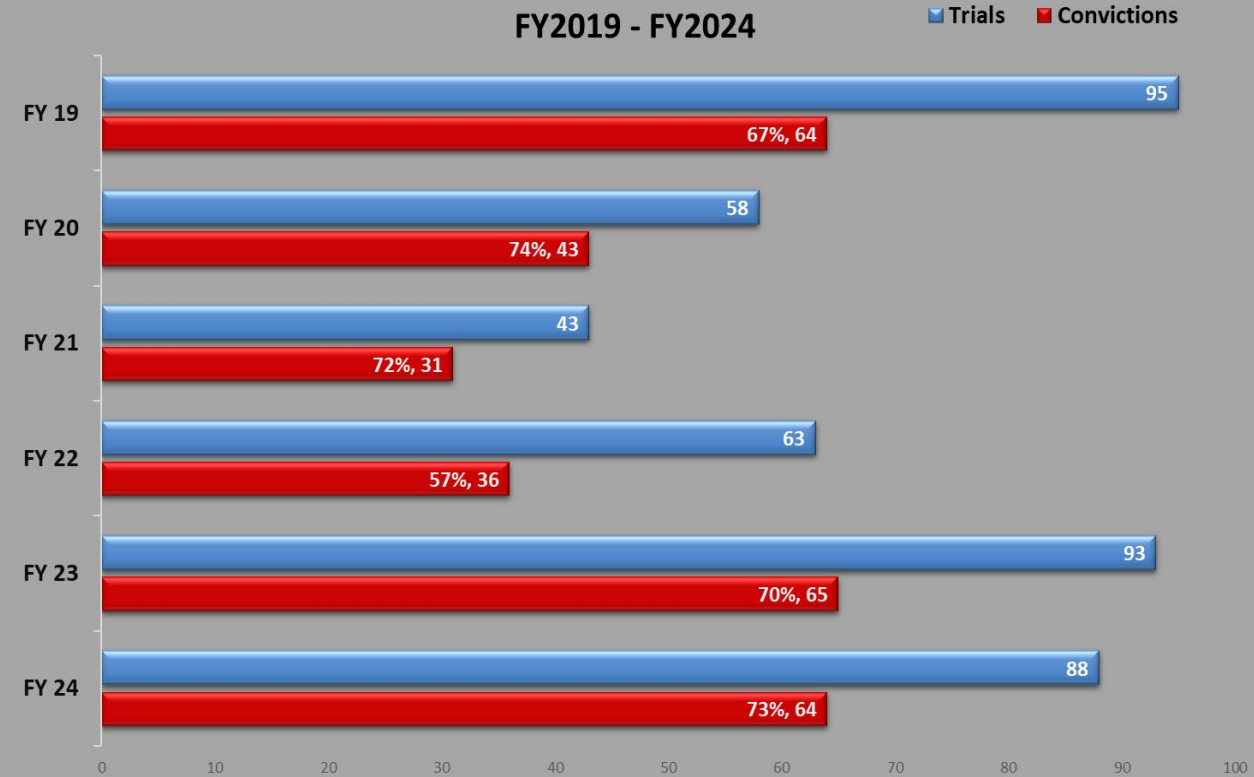


MISDEMEANORS

Misdemeanor Filings v. Disposed
FY 2019 - FY 2024



Misdemeanor Trials
FY2019 - FY2024

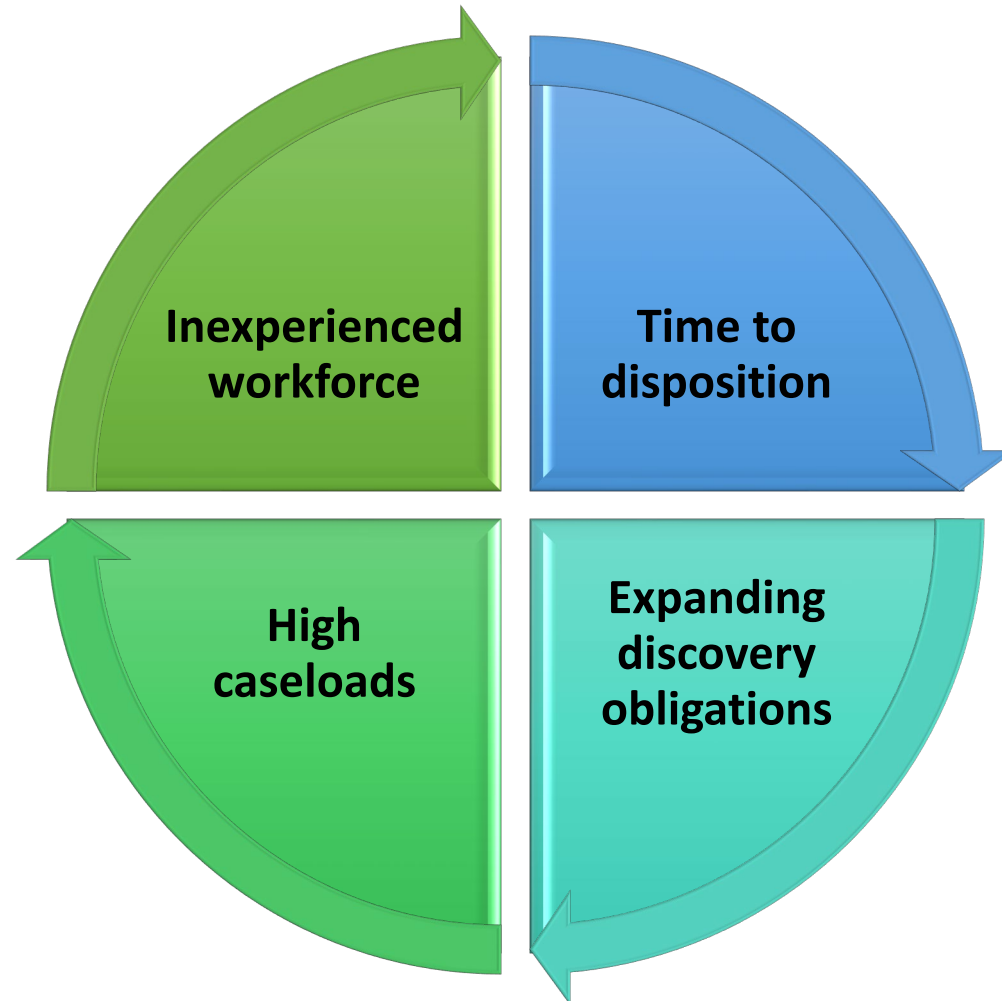


- More cases disposed than filed
- Number of misdemeanor trials up
- Conviction rate returning





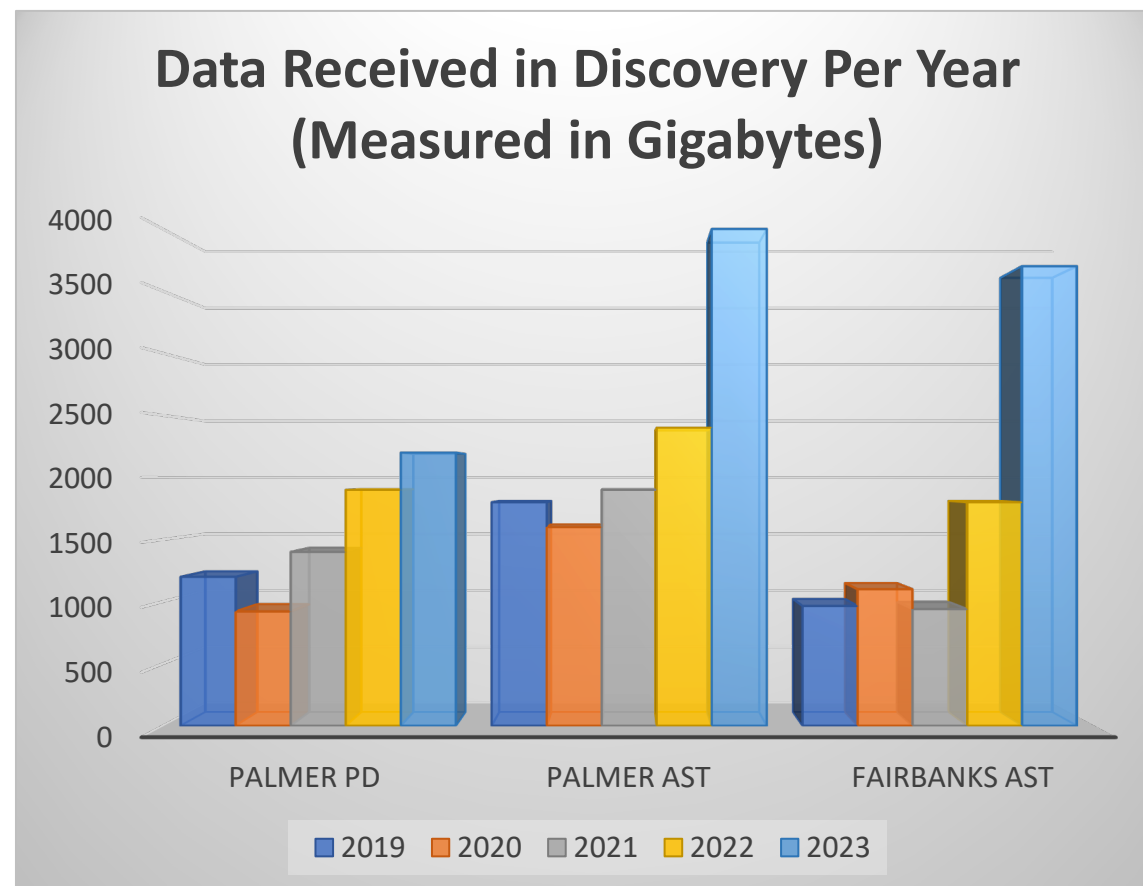
KEY ISSUES IMPACTING OUR WORK





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 Prosecutor</u>	289	253	185

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

SA = Sexual Assault
SAM = Sexual Assault of a Minor

STRATEGIC PLAN

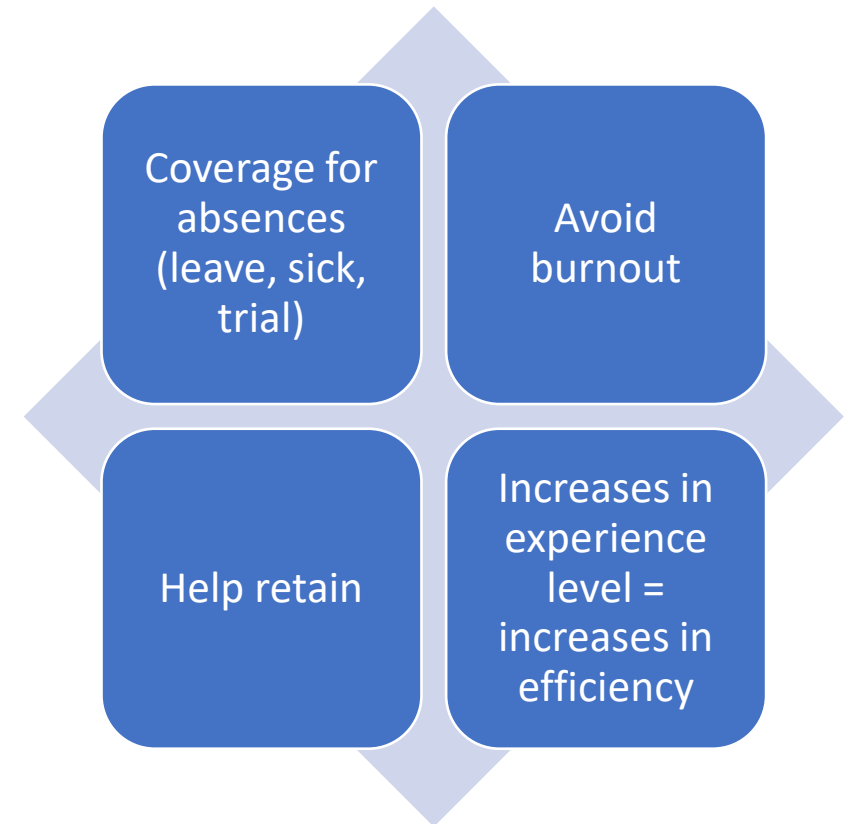
- **REDUCE CASELOADS**
- **SPECIALIZED POSITIONS: *BRADY* AND POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (PCR) TO ALLOW PROSECUTORS TO FOCUS ON CORE WORK**



REQUEST: CASELOAD REDUCTION



- THREE ATTORNEY 5 POSITIONS
- PARALEGAL
- LAW OFFICE ASSISTANT (LOA)



REQUEST: *BRADY*PROSECUTOR



1

Manage *Brady* disclosures & 400+ alerts

2

Address efforts by defense to expand scope

3

Serve as a liaison to law enforcement agencies

4

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



HANDLE

THE BIGGEST/MOST CHALLENGING POST-CONVICTION RELIEF CASES



PROVIDE

GUIDANCE TO LINE PROSECUTORS STATEWIDE



ASSIST

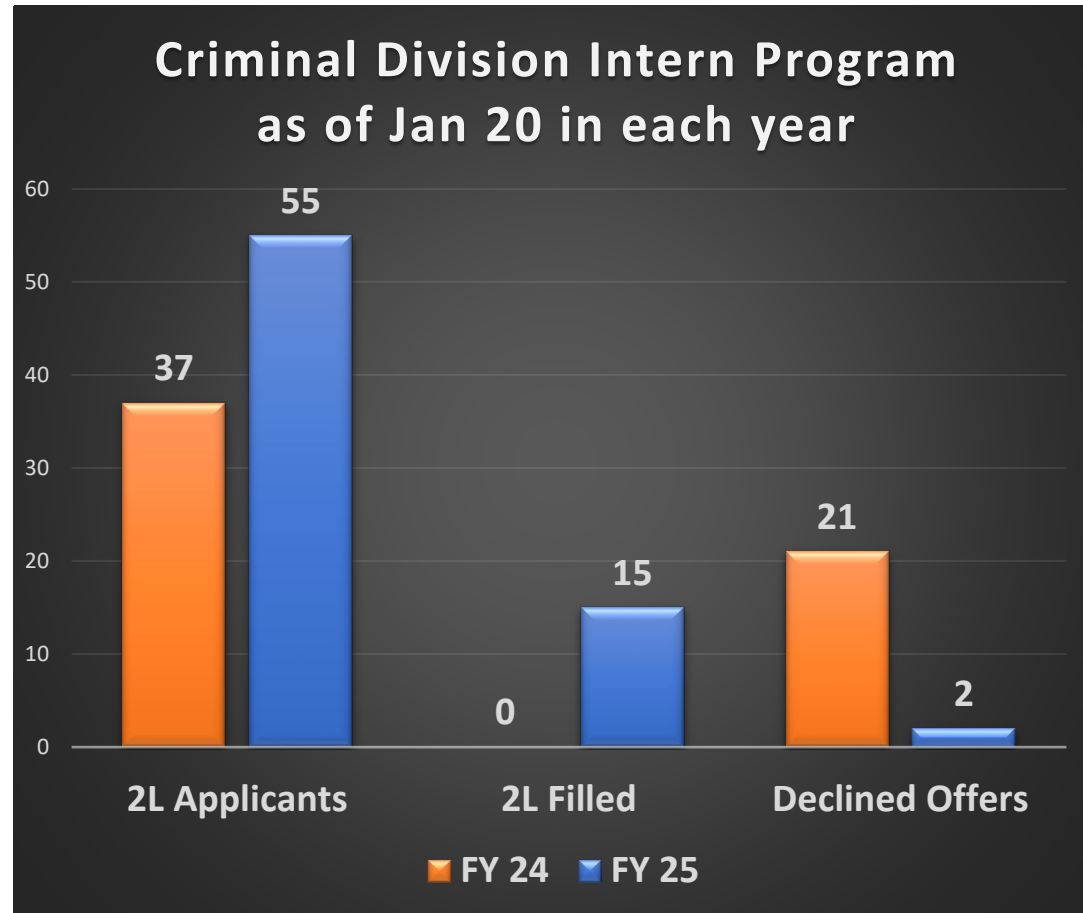
LINE PROSECUTORS WITH CASE COVERAGE



FOCUS

ALLOW LINE PROSECUTOR TO FOCUS ON CORE WORK

PAID INTERN PROGRAM – BEGAN LAST YEAR



*2L is defined as a law student who has completed two-thirds of their law school education.

More applicants (Civil: 164% Increase)

Positions filled faster

Fewer declined offers

More experienced interns

Working in more offices

Broader cross-section of schools





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Questions