

# Alaska Department of Law

FY 2026 Overview



Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General  
Civil Division

Angie Kemp

Director  
Criminal Division

House Judiciary Committee

January 29, 2025

# LEADERSHIP



Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General  
Civil Division



Treg Taylor

Attorney General



John Skidmore

Deputy Attorney General  
Criminal Division



Rachel Witty

Director  
Legal Services



Stacie Kraly

Director  
Legal Services



Amber LeBlanc

Director Administrative  
Services Division



Angie Kemp

Director  
Criminal Division

# 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.



# THINKING BEYOND THE COURTROOM

## OUR VALUES



We serve Alaska in a way that earns the trust of the public and fosters confidence in criminal prosecutions and state government



We seek fair and just resolutions to legal disputes while honoring the rights of crime victims and other injured parties



We foster a healthy work/life balance



We encourage professional development



We encourage a respectful, collaborative, and professional workplace where excellence, integrity, trust, diversity, and accountability are prioritized

# CIVIL DIVISION



To provide high-quality legal services to the executive branch







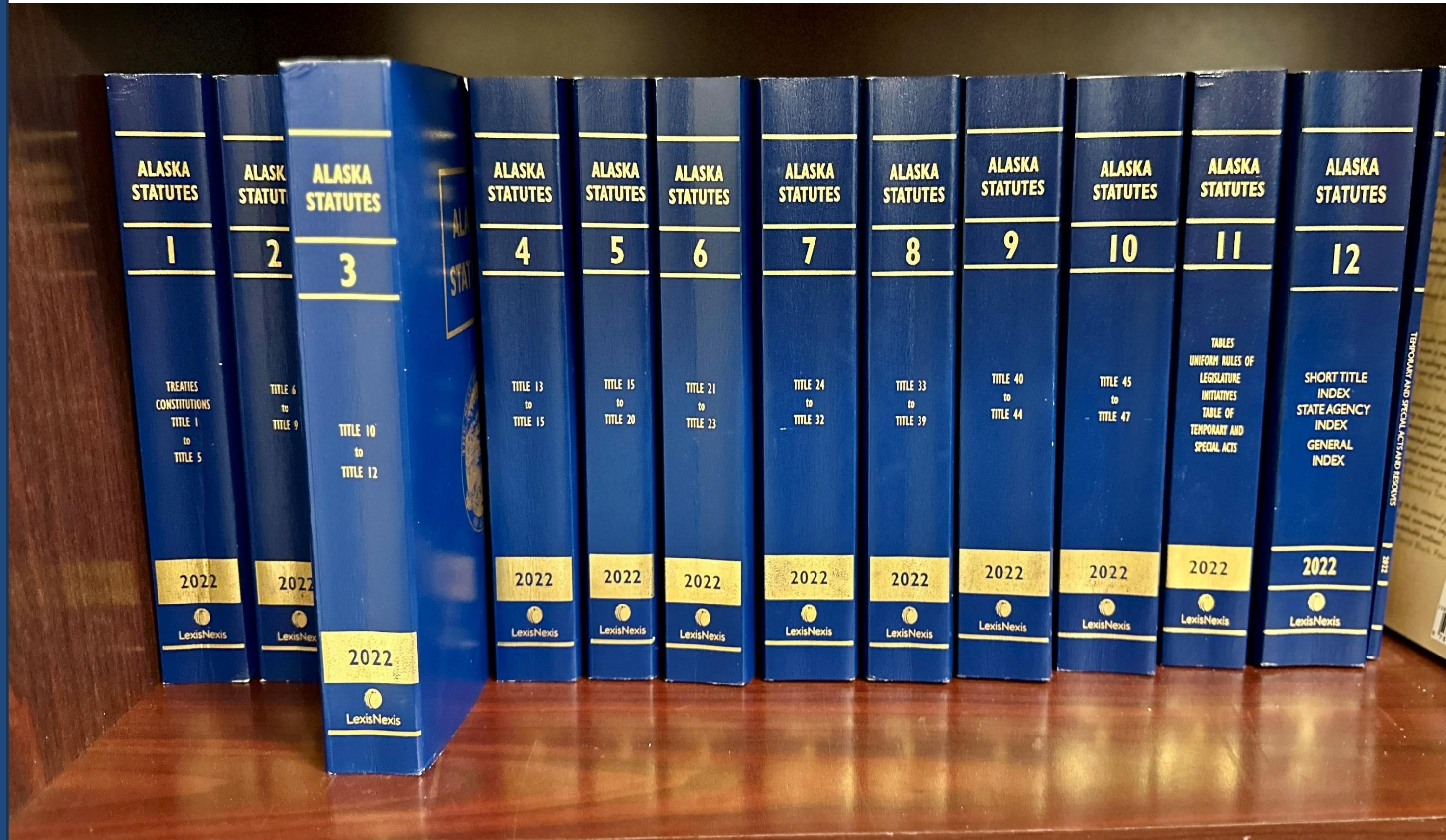
The Department of Law has protected through legal actions an average of nearly 3,000 children per year over the past four years from continued abuse and neglect in their homes.





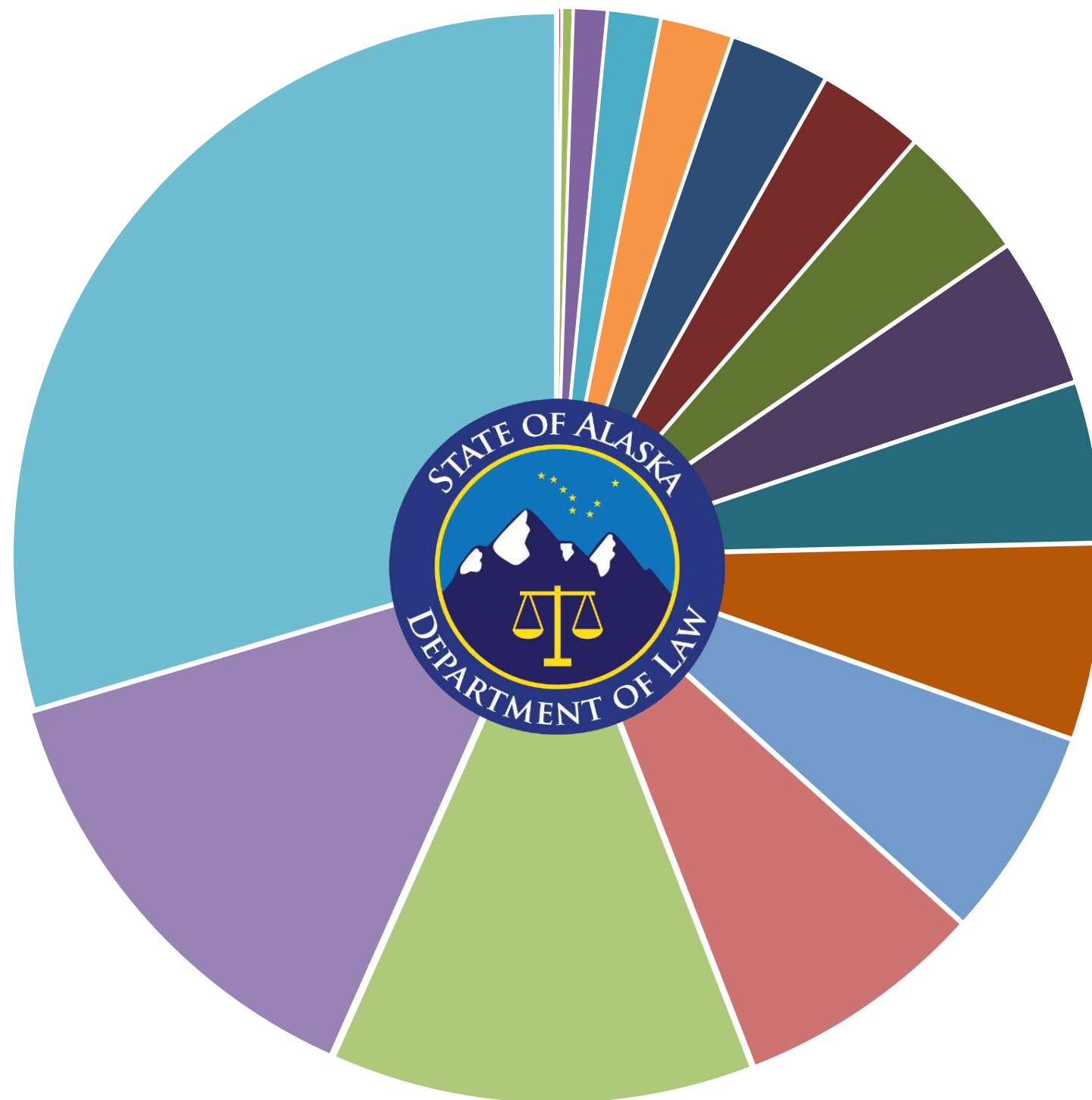
What does  
the Civil  
Division do?

Answer:  
Almost  
Everything





# BIGGEST LAW FIRM IN THE STATE

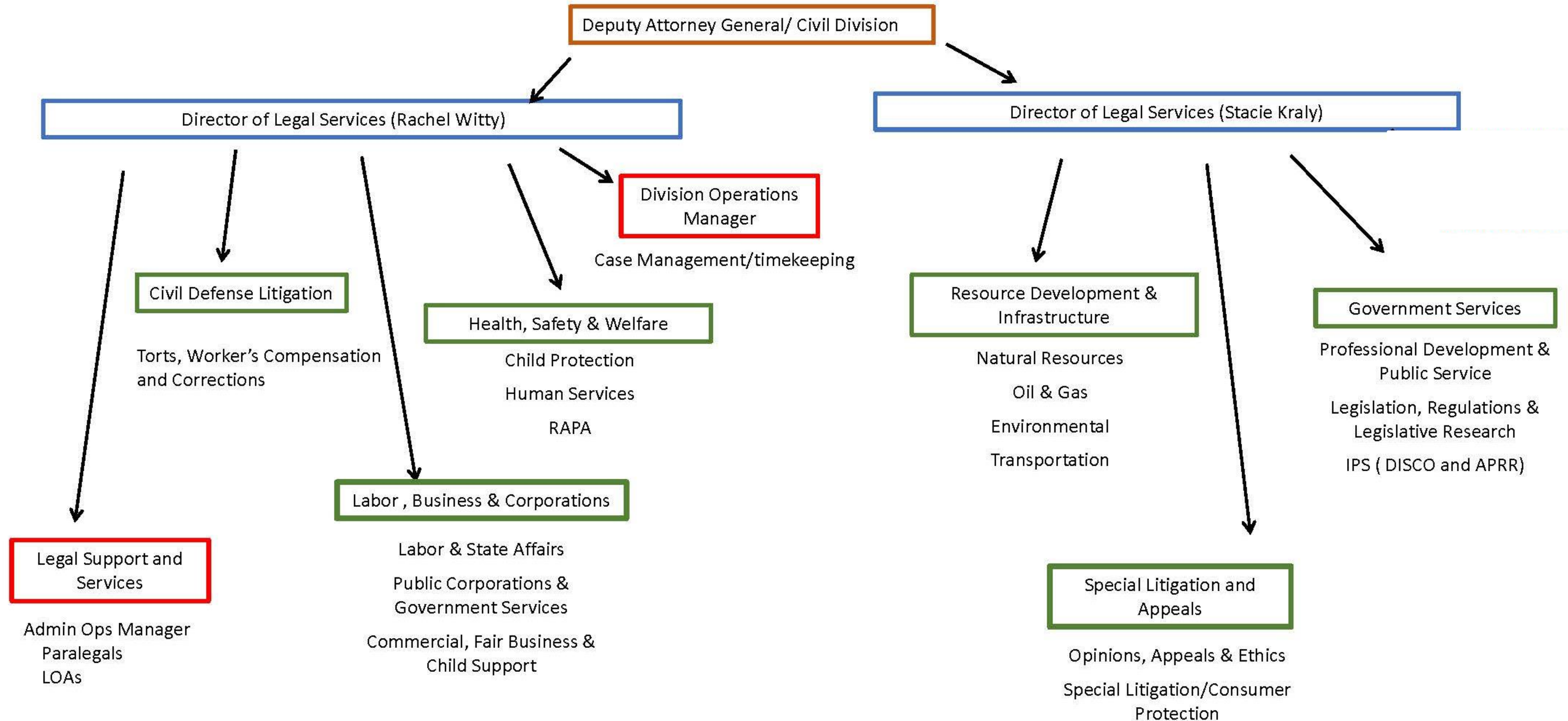


- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Alaska Court System
- Department of Public Safety
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Department of Education and Early Development
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Corrections
- Department 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 = 206,261 hours to each department and executive branch



# CIVIL DIVISION ORGANIZATION



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE



## Natural Resources



**Anne Nelson**

- Represents state interests in statehood defense, natural resource management & development, fish & game management

## Oil & Gas



**Mary Gramling**

- Ensures the state receives its appropriate share of oil & gas royalties and state taxes

## Transportation



**Sean Lynch**

- Represents DOT&PF on construction & operation of public facilities & development projects

## Environmental



**Jenn Currie**

- Represents the state's interest in clean water & air matters, hazardous waste discharge cases, and cleanup costs & recovery



# HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE



## Child Protection



Carla Erickson

- Institutes court actions when children must be removed from abusive or neglectful homes or when court oversight is required

## Human Services



Chris Robison

- Protects vulnerable adults
- Advises and represents the Department of Health, including public assistance, public health and behavioral health

## Regulatory Affairs & Public Advocacy



Jeff Waller

- Protects the Alaskan public interest in public utility and pipeline proceedings before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska

# SPECIAL LITIGATION & APPEALS

## Special Litigation



### Margaret Paton-Walsh

- Handles high-profile, expedited & complex litigation constitutional challenges & elections matters
- Enforces Alaska consumer protection and antitrust laws

## Opinions, Appeals, & Ethics



### Jessie Alloway

- Defends the state in federal and state appellate courts
- Advises on the Executive Branch Ethics Act
- Acts as the tribal liaison



# GOVERNMENT SERVICES



## Legislation, Reg & Leg. Research



**Rebecca Polizzotto**

- Oversees all legislative drafting, coordinates review of proposed & enacted legislation
- Oversees regulations projects for all state agencies

## Prof. Dev., & Public Service



**Jessica Leeah**

- Oversees all internship, externship and fellowship programs
- Works on recruitment efforts and training opportunities

## IPS (Disco & APRR)



**Alan Birnbaum**

Advises agencies on the management, sharing, retention, and disclosure of information

# CIVIL DEFENSE LITIGATION



## Torts, Workers' Comp & Corrections



Mark Cucci

- Provides advice & defense to state agencies in tort suits
- Defends the state as an employer in workers' compensation claims
- Provides advice & defense to the Dept. of Corrections in civil suits



# LABOR, BUSINESS & CORPORATIONS



## Commercial, Fair Bus. & Child Support



Rebecca Hattan

- Advises Professional licensing
- Represents state agencies on public utilities, alcohol and marijuana sales and child support recovery

## Public Corp. & Gov. Services



Bill Milks

- Represents unique state entities like public corporations, retirement systems, state health plans, and the Dept. of Education & Early Development

## Labor & State Affairs



Tom Flynn

- Represents Governor & Lt. Governor's offices and Division of Elections
- Advises Departments of Administration, Labor & Workforce Dev.; Military & Vet. Affairs

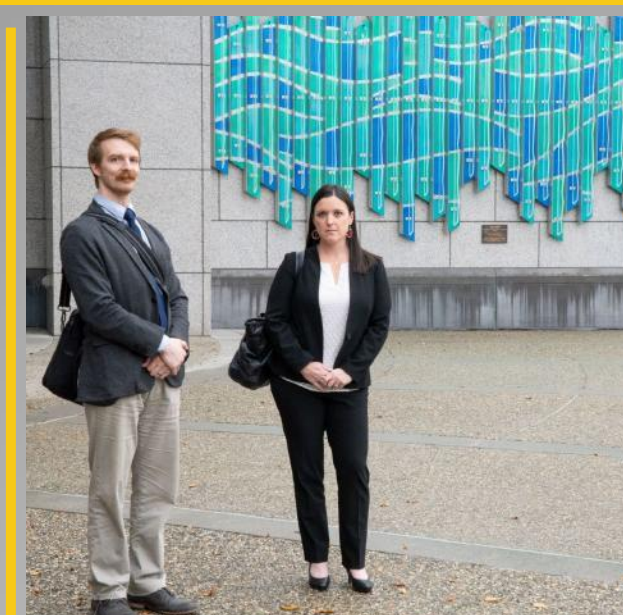


# CRIMINAL DIVISION

## MISSION

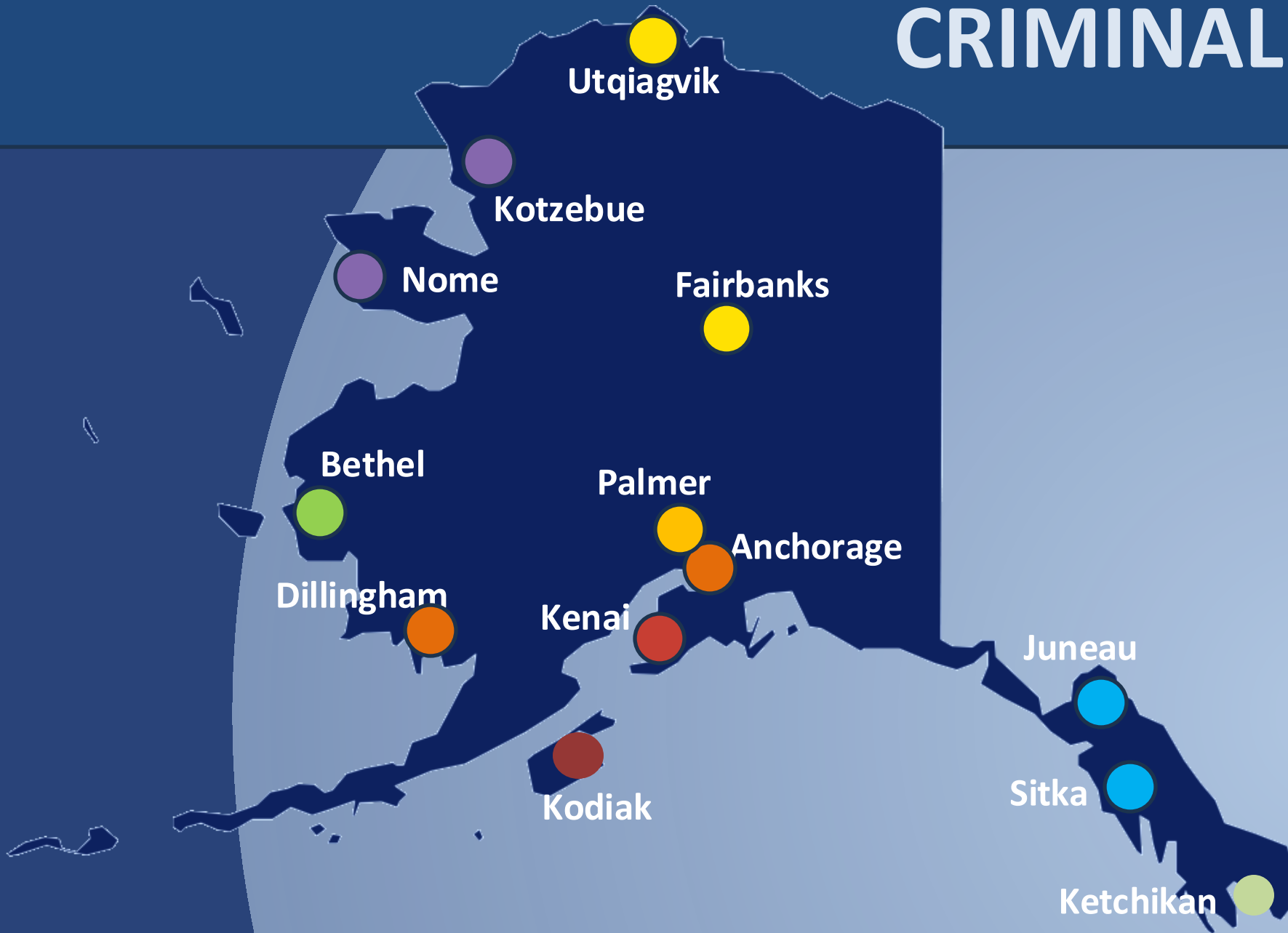


The mission of the Criminal Division is to seek justice, promote public safety and public respect for government through prompt, effective, and compassionate prosecution of cases. The Criminal Division will prosecute cases in a manner that advocates for the interests of the public – especially victims, 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.



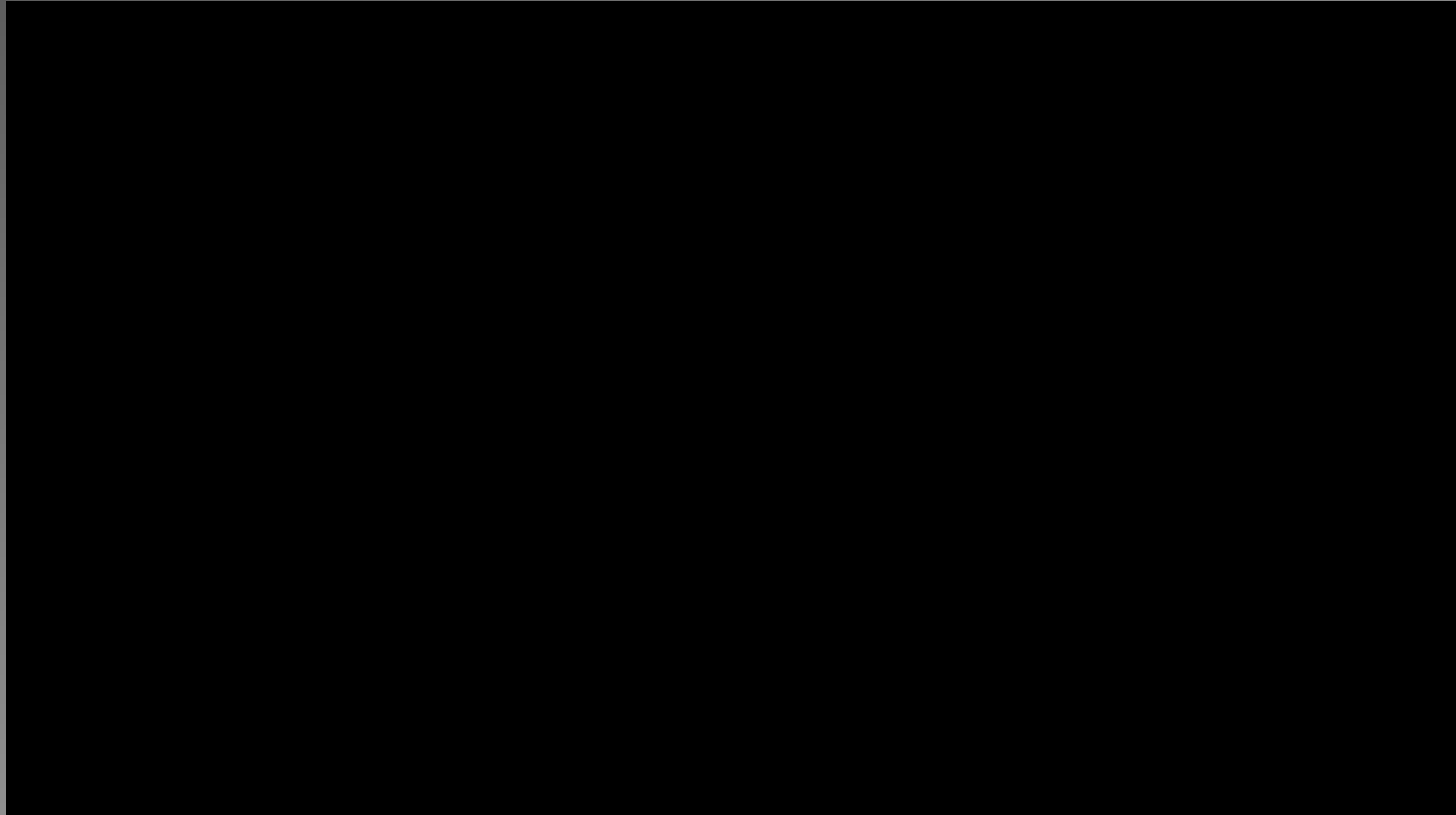


# CRIMINAL DIVISION



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

Ketchikan	Juneau	Kodiak	Anchorage	Palmer	Bethel	Nome	Fairbanks	OSP	Appeals
Alex Kramarczuk	Whitney Bostick	William Vitkus	Brittany Dunlop	Trina Sears	Mark Clark	John Earthman	Joe Dallaire	Jenna Gruenstein	Tamara DeLucia



Pat McKay Jr., Assistant District Attorney, has prosecuted many high-profile murder cases.



# STAGES OF CRIMINAL CASE



# INVESTIGATION

- Scene view
- Advise on legal and constitutional issues
- Search warrant applications





# INFORMAL REFERRAL



- Domestic violence
- Charging decisions
- Arrest decisions
- Charged case





# PRE-TRIAL LITIGATION

- Arraignment
- Bail hearings
- Discovery
- Pretrial motion practice
- Evidentiary hearings







“The disposition of criminal charges by agreement between the prosecutor and the accused...is an essential component of the administration of justice. Properly administered, it is to be encouraged. If every criminal charge were subjected to a full-scale trial, the States and the Federal Government would need to multiply by many times the number of judges and court facilities.”

-Chief Justice Warren Burger, *Santobello v. New York*, 404 U.S. 257 (1971).

# PRE-TRIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Negotiation
- Change of plea hearings
- Victim participation





# TRIAL PREPARATION



- Review and organize evidence
- Victim/witness contact, travel, accommodations
- Create and organize exhibits
- Research and draft jury instructions





# TRIAL



*Witness and Exhibit Coordination and mid-trial practice*

- Jury selection
- Opening statement
- Case-in-chief
- Rebuttal
- Closing statement





# SENTENCING



- Sentencing memorandum (Argument)
- Presentation of evidence
- Victim participation
- Restitution litigation





# POST TRIAL LITIGATION



- Motions for new trial
- Appeals (merit and sentence)
- Post-conviction relief
- Writ of *habeas corpus*





# QUESTIONS?

## **Cori Mills**

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## **Angie Kemp**

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