

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

FY2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2024

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DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST: PAID INTERNS

State Position Description: Graduate Intern 2

Range 16: \$4,570/month in Anchorage

Airfare: \$750

Housing Stipend: \$3,000

Partner with University of Alaska for rooms: University gets stipend

District Attorney Offices (DAO) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Juneau (southeast), Kenai, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik

Total 58 interns / 3 months: \$1,072,800



CRIMINAL DIVISION MISSION



To seek justice, promote public safety,
and further public respect for
government through prompt, effective,
and compassionate prosecution of
cases.



CRIMINAL DIVISION

FY2025 OPERATING BUDGET CHANGES

- Change In Sexual Assault Consent Laws: \$2,328.6 Unrestricted General Funds (UGF), 12 Permanent Full-Time Positions (PFT)
- Training: \$100.0 UGF
- Increased Drug Prosecutions: \$397.5 UGF, 2 PFT
- Six Investigators: \$1,142.9 UGF, 6 PFT
- Investigative Grand Jury Needs: \$502.4 UGF, 3 PFT

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

Change In Sexual Assault Consent Laws

Staffing

- **Six Attorney 5**
Nome DAO, Anchorage DAO, Fairbanks DAO, Special Prosecutions: Juneau, Bethel, Anchorage
 - **Two Paralegal 3**
Anchorage DAO and Special Prosecutions
 - **Two Law Office Assistant 2**
Kenai and Special Prosecutions
 - **Two Administrative Assistants**
Juneau/ Anchorage
- ❖ Previous bill passed without fiscal notes
 - ❖ Defenses agencies received funding last year
(\$3,128.9 UGF received by Office of Public Advocacy and Public Defender Agency)



Addressing Sexual Assault Epidemic

\$2,328.6 UGF
*\$ amounts shown in thousands

TRAINING

Two types of Academies

Prosecutor

- Two weeks substantive law/trial advocacy
- Held twice a year
- 20 attendees
- Three-five trainers

Paralegal

- 40 hours recorded modules
- 40 hours in person
- Held once a year
- 13-15 attendees
- Two trainers



Personnel Are Our Greatest Asset

\$100.0 UGF

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

Increased Drug Prosecutions

Increased Need For Prosecution

- Amount seized increased
- Deaths increased
- Number of cases increased

Drug Trafficking = Public Safety
Danger

Two PFT: Prosecutor and Paralegal

Protecting Our Communities



ONE
PILL CAN
KILL

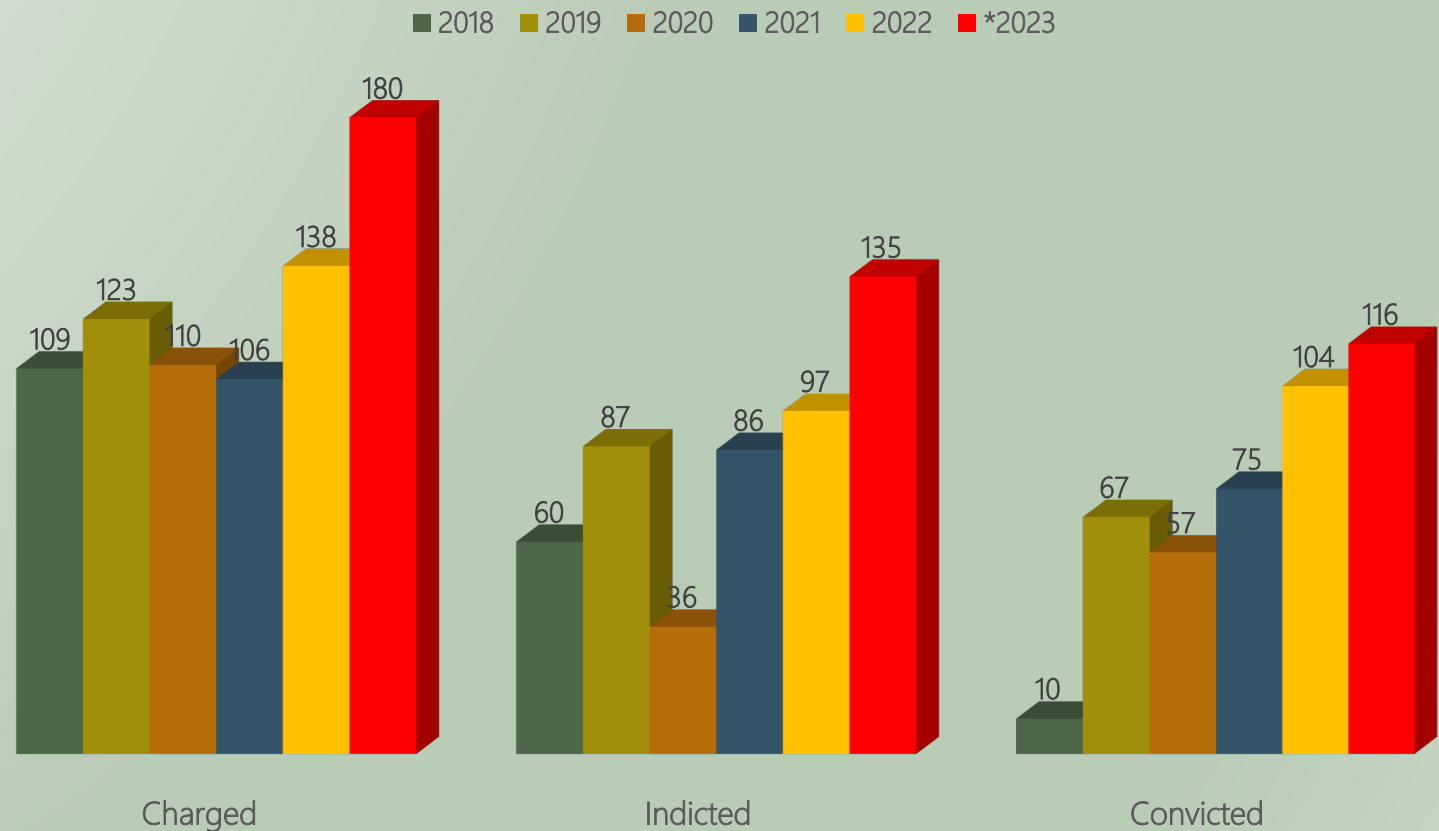
\$397.5 UGF

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

Increased Drug Prosecutions

- 65% increase in cases charged since 2018
- +250 active cases
- 125 awaiting screening
- Two prosecutors currently =
 - 125 active per attorney
 - 75 screening per attorney

High Intensity Drug Tracking Area Prosecutions 2018-2023



Investigators

- Most prosecutor's offices in lower 48 have investigators
- Follow up needed for domestic violence/sexual assault
- Serve witnesses

Six PFT Throughout The State

- ☐ Special Prosecutions
- ☐ Fairbanks
- ☐ Palmer
- ☐ Kenai
- ☐ Southeast
- ☐ Bethel



Personnel Are Our Greatest Asset

\$1,142.9 UGF

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

Investigative Grand Jury

- ❖ Alaska Constitution Article 1 § 8
- ❖ Recent increased demand
- ❖ Not criminal cases
 - Law
 - Constitution
 - Statutes
 - Regulations
 - Court Rules
 - Practice and Policy
 - Facts/evidence
 - How obtain evidence
 - Harm, if any

Three PFT

- ☐ Prosecutor
- ☐ Paralegal
- ☐ Law Office Assistant

Public Welfare and Safety

GRAND JURY ROOM

\$502.4 UGF

*\$ amounts shown in thousands



CIVIL DIVISION MISSION



To provide high-quality legal services that protect the human, financial, and natural resources of the state.



CIVIL DIVISION

FY2023-2025 OPERATING BUDGET CHANGES

- Civil Division Restructuring: \$45.0 UGF
- Personnel for Child Protection Section Fairbanks: \$176.2 UGF, \$176.2 Interagency Receipts (I/A), PFT
- Expand Consumer Protection Unit: \$598.7 Statutory Designated Program Receipts (SDPR), 3 PFT
- Replace Unavailable Interagency Receipt Authority for Regulation Reviews: (fund source change)
+\$448.0 UGF, -\$448.0 I/A
- Increase for Statehood Defense (FY25-FY27): \$2,018.0 UGF IncT

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

CIVIL DIVISION POST-RESTRUCTURE

PROTECTIVE LEGAL SERVICES & SUPPORT

- Human Services
- Child Protection
- Commercial, Fair Business, and Child Support
- Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy

AGENCY ADVICE & REPRESENTATION

- Torts, Workers' Compensation, and Corrections
- Labor and State Affairs
- Public Corporations and Governmental Services

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Environmental
- Transportation
- Oil and Gas
- Natural Resources

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Opinions, Appeals, and Ethics
- Information and Project Support
- Professional Development and Public Service
- Special Litigation
- Legislation, Regulations, and Legislative Research

LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- Paralegal: Protective Legal Services
- Paralegal: Government Services, Resource Development and Infrastructure, Agency Advice and Representation
- Law Office Assistants

EXPAND CHILD PROTECTION

TWO FULL-TIME FAIRBANKS PERSONNEL

- Attorney 4, range 24
- Paralegal 1, range 14

ADDRESSING CASELOADS

- Reduce burden on Fairbanks attorneys by distributing significant workload
- Improve retention and attorney scheduling balance
- Smoother coordination with Office of Children's Services

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Positive impact on children, foster families, and parents

SUPPORTING ALASKA'S FAMILIES

+\$176.2 UGF/+\$176.2 I/A

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

EXPAND CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT (CPU)

History of CPU

- Expanded end of 2018
- In five years prior to expansion, no Alaska-focused complaints, since expansion 12 Alaska-focused complaints filed
- Currently, seven open investigations and 10 preliminary investigations that are unable to be worked on due to lack of staff

THREE FULL-TIME ANCHORAGE PERSONNEL

- Attorney 5, range 25
- Investigator 2, range 16
- Paralegal 2, range 16

PROTECTING ALASKAN CONSUMERS

+\$539.6 SDPR

*\$ amounts shown in thousands

EXPAND CPU Continued

VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE STATE

- Civil penalties collected since 1/1/2019: over \$25 million
- \$1.3 million in restitution to Alaska consumers
- Nearly \$100 million for opioid abatement to date

RELIEF TO ALASKANS

- Allows CPU to increase caseload
- Helps more Alaskans through injunctive relief and restitution

PROTECTING ALASKAN CONSUMERS

REGULATION REVIEW FUND SOURCE CHANGE

-\$448.0 I/A/+ \$448.0 UGF

- Removes the outdated chargeback system originally intended to fund one attorney position for all agency regulation reviews
- Allows the Department of Law to meet the cost for regulation reviews that includes all attorneys, legal editors, and paralegals assigned to regulation reviews

*\$ amounts shown in thousands



STATEHOOD DEFENSE INCREASE

- Asserting the state's ownership and management rights relating to land and natural resources, protect the responsible development of the state's resources, and defend Alaska's sovereignty
- Issues relating to federal rulemaking challenges relating to resource management
- Support for navigability and other matters of access across the state

Statehood Defense

Current Multi Year Appropriations

Note: All amounts are as of 2/13/2024

Appropriation	Beginning FY	Term FY	Budget	Encumbered	Expenses	Unobligated
BFY21-25 Outside Counsel and Expertise to Support Statehood Defense HB69 Sec2c	FY2021	FY2025	4,000,000	494,966	3,503,161	1,873
BFY23-25 Additional Outside Counsel and Expertise to Support Statehood Defense HB281 Sec69a	FY2023	FY2025	2,000,000	10,043	1,986,909	3,048
BFY23-25 Outside Counsel to Litigate on Tongass National Forest, Support Statehood Defense HB281 Sec69b	FY2023	FY2025	500,000	-	68,694	431,306
BFY24-26 Statehood Defense HB39 Sec64(a)	FY2024	FY2026	5,000,000	-	42,736	4,957,264
TOTAL:			11,500,000	505,009	5,601,500	5,393,491

QUESTIONS?

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