

Public Defender Agency (PDA)



Presented by
Department of Administration

Commissioner Leslie Ridle
Public Defender Quinlan Steiner
Administrative Services Director Cheri Lowenstein

Public Defender Agency

Allocation or Service	FY19 Funding (in thousands)	Positions (Budgeted / Filled)	Alaskans Served	% Cost Through Fees	Importance to DOA Mission	Effectiveness	Constitutionally Required	Federally Required	Statutorily Required
Entire Division	\$26,110.7 Total \$24,930.7 UGF \$ 478.2 DGF \$ 701.8 Other	168 PFT / 161 Filled 1 PPT / 1 Filled 8 NP / 8 Filled	22,020	1.8%	Critical	Highly Effective	Yes Article I, Secs. 1, 7, 11 & 22 of the Alaska Constitution	Yes United States Constitution, 6 th & 14 th Amendments	AS 18.85.010- .170
Administration	\$978.8 Total \$978.8 UGF	9 PFT / 9 Filled 1 PPT / 1 Filled	NA	0%	Critical	Highly Effective	Yes	Yes	Yes
Criminal Trials	\$18,099.2 Total \$17,011.5 UGF \$ 425.5 DGF \$ 662.3 Other	113 PFT / 107 Filled 8 NP / 8 Filled	18,452	2.1%	Critical	Highly Effective	Yes	Yes	Yes
Civil Trials	\$4,637.0 Total \$4,597.5 UGF \$ 39.5 Other	31 PFT / 30 Filled	3,308	0%	Critical	Highly Effective	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appeals	\$2,395.7 Total \$2,343.0 UGF \$ 52.7 DGF	15 PFT / 15 Filled	240	2.1%	Critical	Moderately Effective	Yes	Yes	Yes

PDA Challenges

Workload Increases

- Overall workload continues to rise as increases in felony caseloads increase
 - 16% increase from FY17 to FY18 for felony cases Statewide
 - 18% increase from FY17 to FY18 for felony cases in Anchorage
- Civil cases increased dramatically over the last 10 years
 - 43% increase from FY14 to FY15 in CINA cases Statewide
 - 60% increase from FY14 to FY15 in CINA cases in Anchorage
 - 28% increase in commitment matters from FY14 to FY18
- Caseload is beyond maximum ethical limit set by the American Bar Association

Meeting Constitutional Obligations

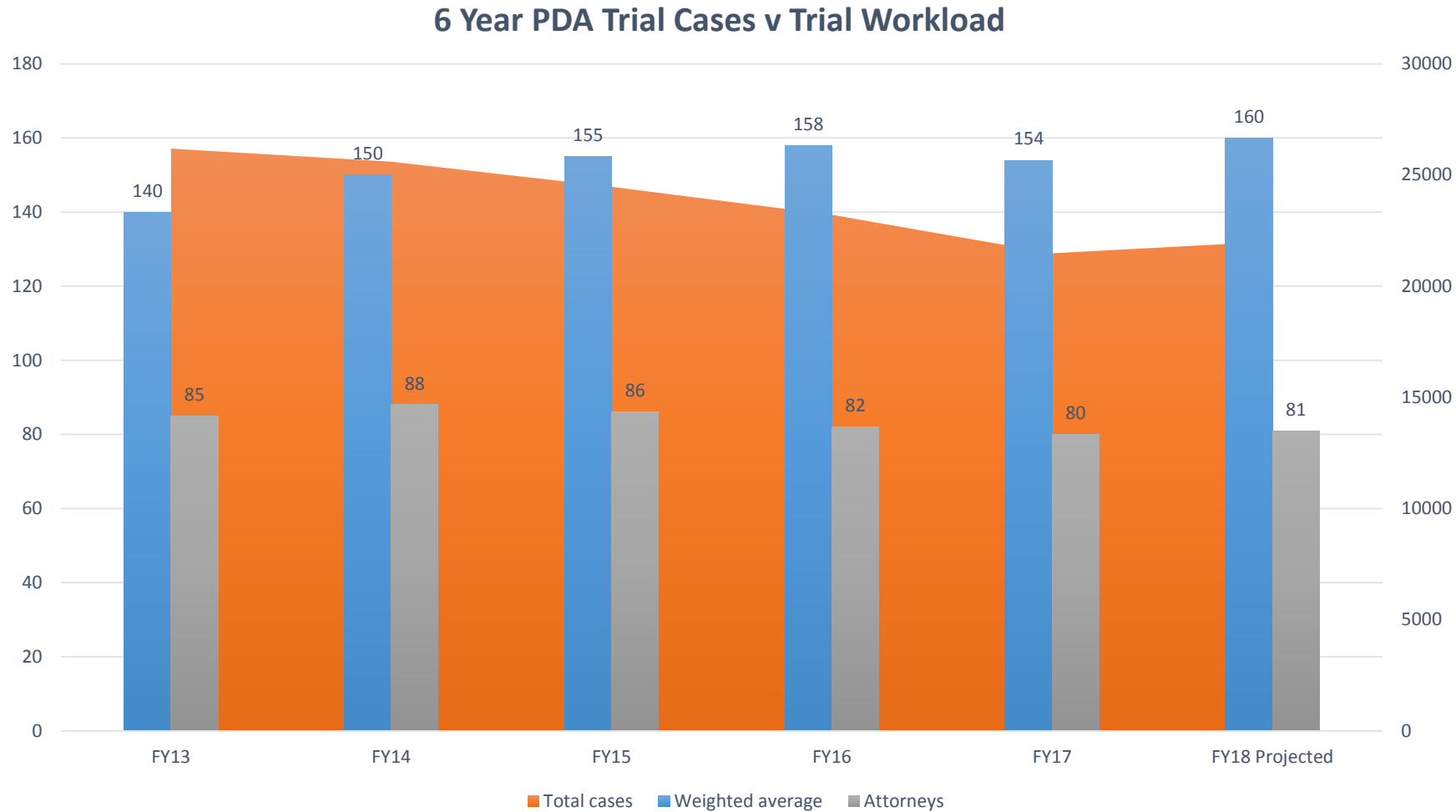
Reduced resources impact ability to:

- Respond to new Court of Appeals decision increasing PDA responsibility for client travel expenses
- Maintain effective presence in rural offices necessary to meet ethical and constitutional obligations

Recruitment

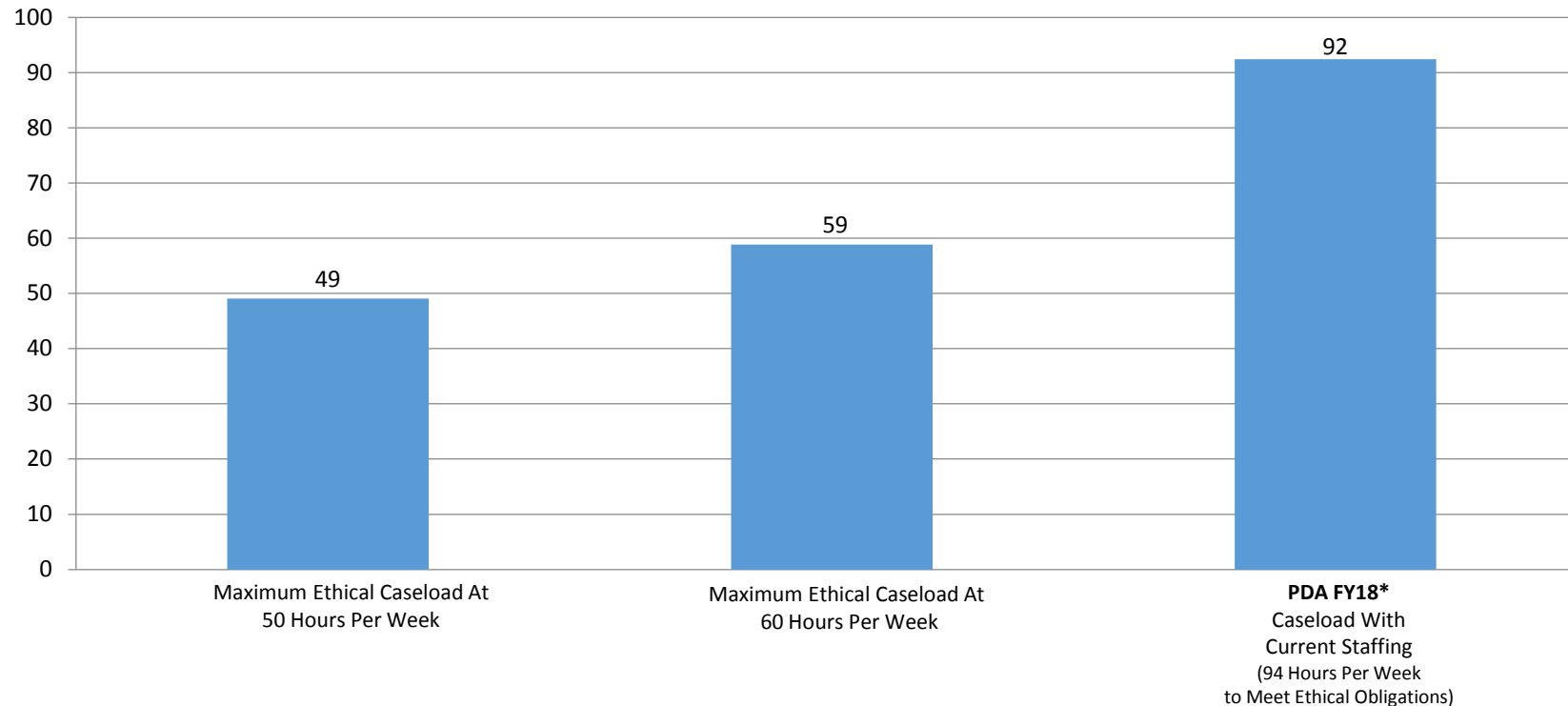
- Vacancies increase backlog and workload, and decrease the effectiveness of efficiency initiatives

PDA Workload Trends: American Bar Association



PDA FY 18 Projected Workload: 1998 LEG Audit

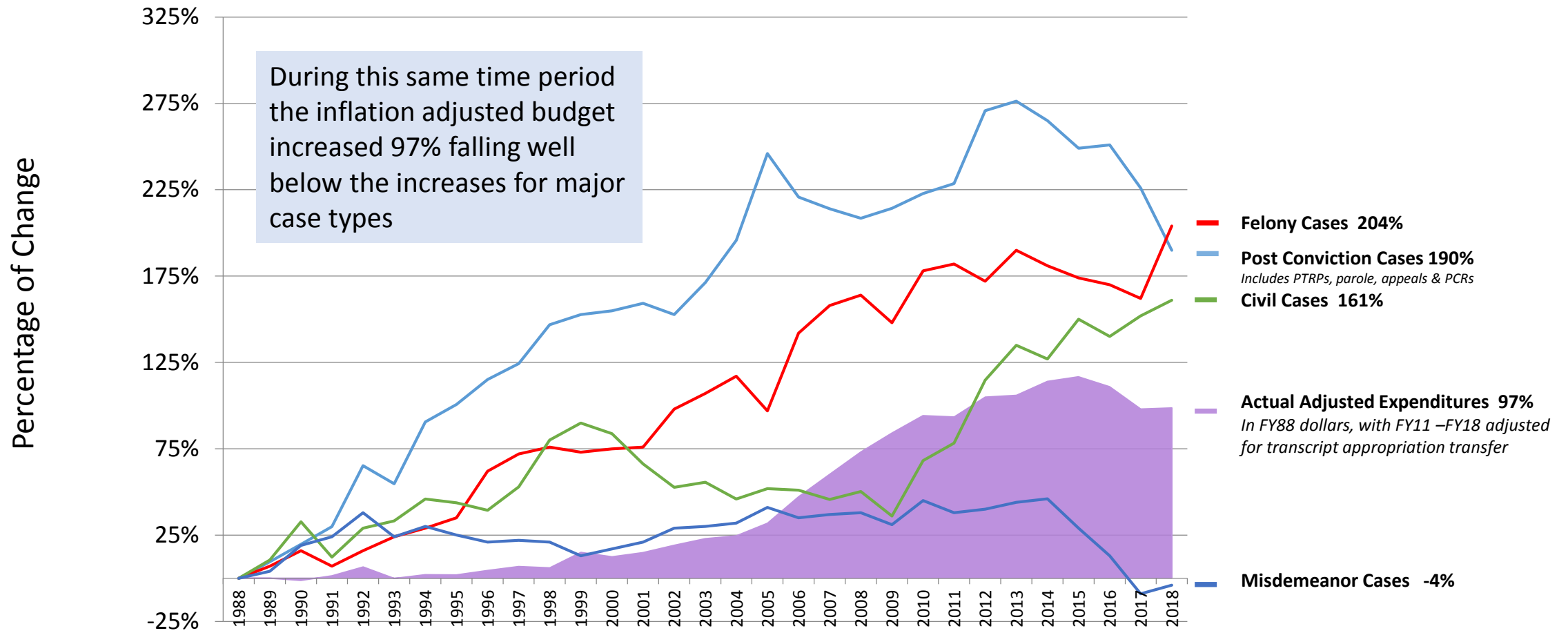
Maximum Ethically Permissible Caseload (Based on 1998 Legislative Audit/Time Study)



* Projected based on 2 quarters for FY18

** ALL CASE TYPES

PDA Historical Caseload & Budget



PDA Accomplishments

- Expanding Holistic Justice Initiative, designed to assist clients with non-legal barriers to successful re-entry, utilizing lower-cost, non-attorney staff
 - Working with Alaska Legal Services Corporation and the University of Alaska, Anchorage, through a grant from the Mental Health Trust Authority, on a study of holistic defense
- Launch of AmeriCorps program at PDA, leveraging AmeriCorps members to assist with client services, through a grant from ServeAlaska.
- Initiation of transition to a new case management system, scheduled for implementation in FY19.
 - Will result in efficiencies and cost savings related to discovery exchange between PDA and the Department of Law
- Continued Technology Cost Reductions by transitioning additional physical servers to DOA maintained virtual servers
- Cost reductions from held vacancies, employee furloughs, & teleconferencing

Questions?

For more information on Department of Administration services, priorities, or other issues, please contact:

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