



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

House Judiciary Standing Committee – 1/26/26 1:00pm
FY 2026 Overview: Department of Law Update

Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General
Civil Division

Stephen J. Cox

Attorney General

Angie Kemp

Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division



LEADERSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW



Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General
Civil Division



Stephen Cox

Attorney General



Angie Kemp

Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division



Rachel Witty

Director
Civil Division



Charles Gartland

Director
Civil Division



Amber Leblanc

Director
Administrative Services Division



Rob Henderson

Director
Criminal Division



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Jenna Lorence
Solicitor General



John Skidmore
Senior Litigation Counsel,
Criminal Division



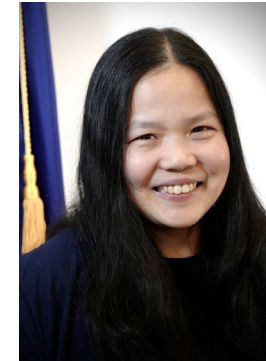
Anne Helzer
Chief AAG
Special Projects & Initiatives



Sharla Mylar
Special Assistant & Tribal
Liaison, Civil Division



Sam Curtis
Information Officer
Communications Team



Ninia Dizon
Executive Secretary



DEPARTMENT 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

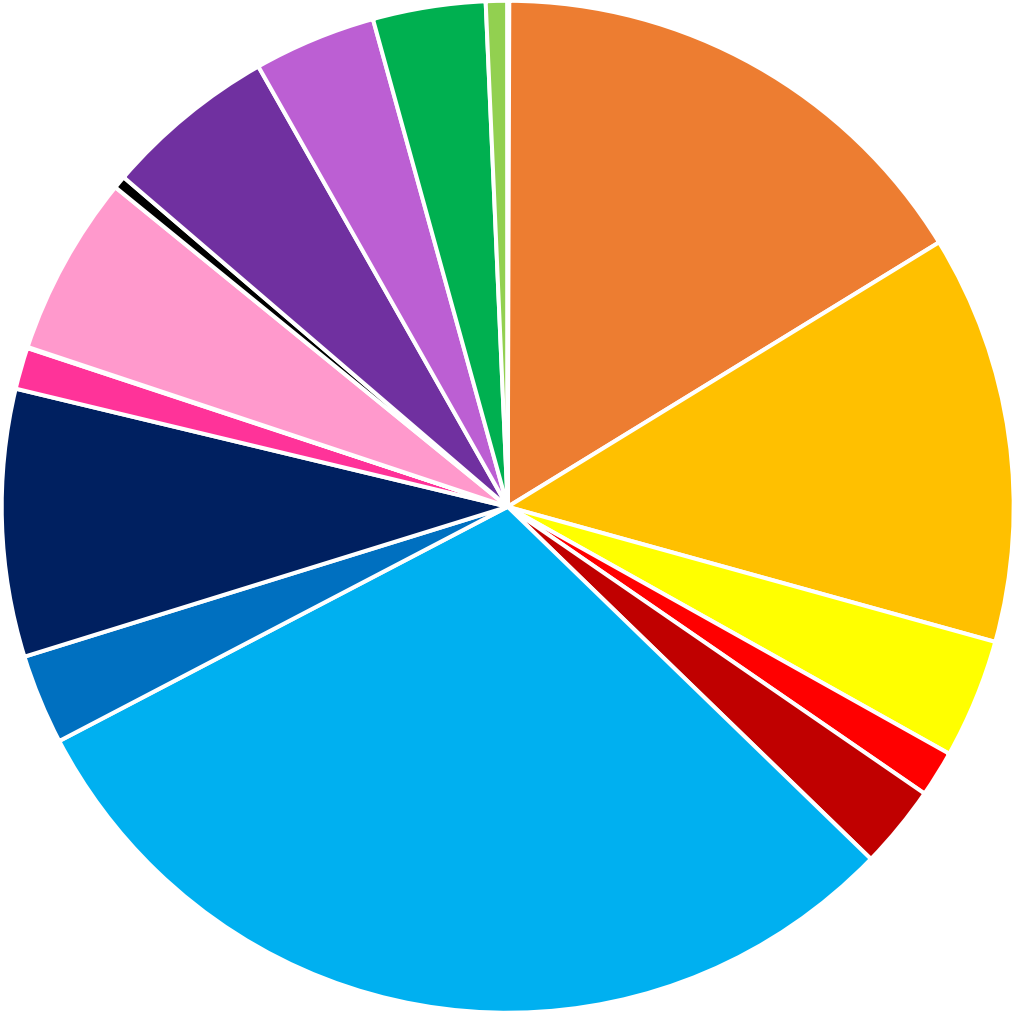
MISSION

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





FY25 Civil Hours Billed by Client Agency



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

Total = 211,902 hours



CIVIL DIVISION STRUCTURE



Rachel Witty, Director
**Government & Social Services,
Business, Employment & Labor**



Jessica Leeah
PDPS, Juneau



Rebecca Polizzotto
LRLR, Juneau



Alan Birnbaum
IPS, Anchorage



Carla Erickson
CP, Anchorage



Steven Bookman
HS, Anchorage



Jeff Waller
RAPA, Anchorage



Susan Sonneborn
PCGS, Anchorage



Rebecca Hattan
CFB&CS, Juneau



Tom Flynn
LSA, Anchorage



Matthew Jendrusina
LABR, Anchorage



CIVIL DIVISION STRUCTURE



Charles Gartland, Director
Natural Resources, Infrastructure,
Appeals & Litigation



Anne Nelson
NR, Anchorage



Mary Gramling
OG, Juneau



Jenn Currie
ENV, Anchorage



Sean Lynch
TR, Juneau



Georgia Smithee
TWC, Juneau



Kevin Dilg
COR, Juneau



Jessie Alloway
OAE, Anchorage



Margaret Paton-Walsh
SL, Anchorage



Litigation Over the Past Seven Years

More than **95%**
success in **~13,800**
CINA cases

60 Consumer
Protection/Antitrust
Wins

271 torts cases
concluded

~84% success rate
on **263** appeals on
the merits

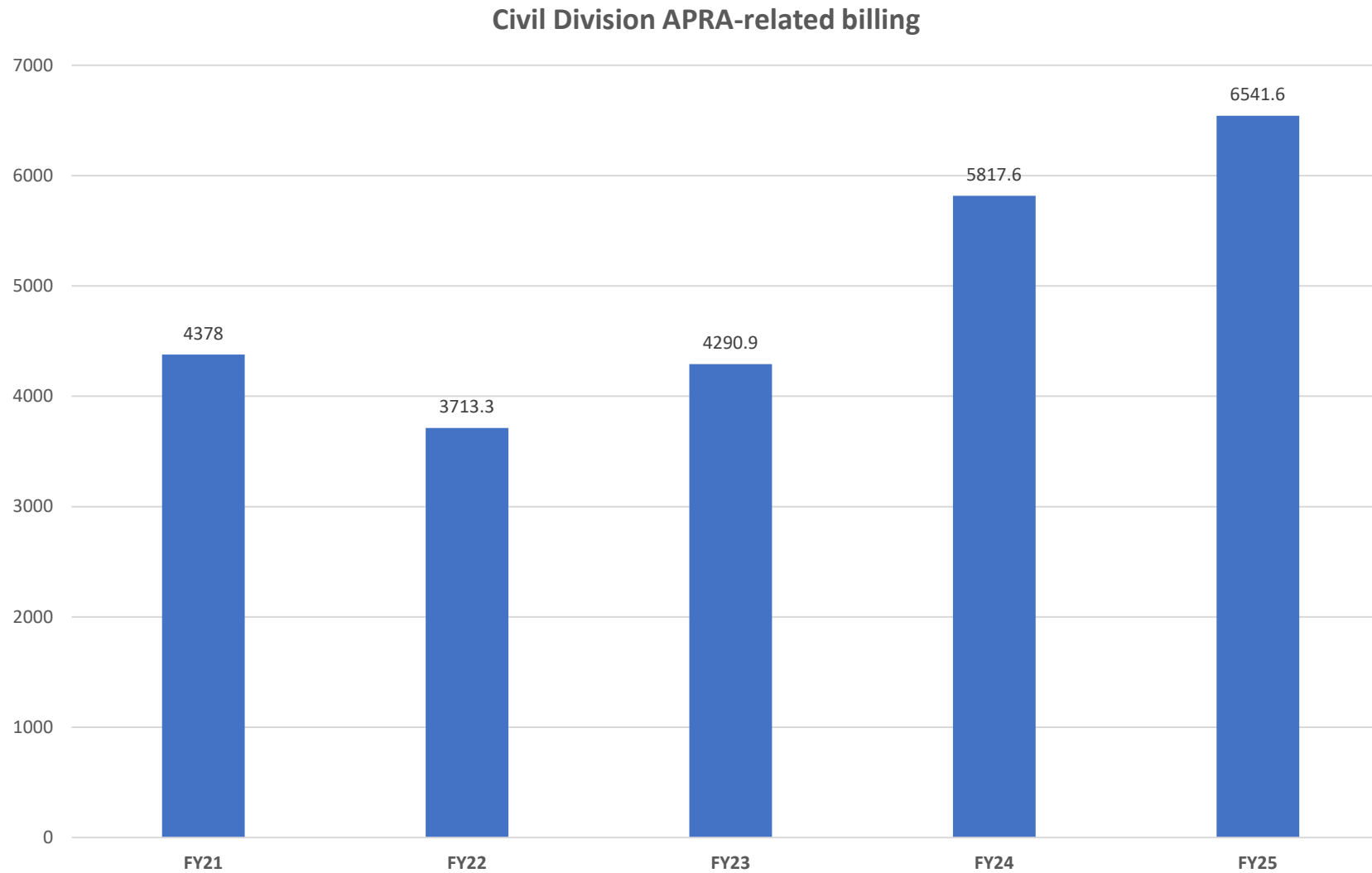
126 successful
outcomes out of
243 workplace and
employment cases

936 civil
commitment
petitions granted

30 out of **39**
Favorable
Resolutions in
Special Litigation



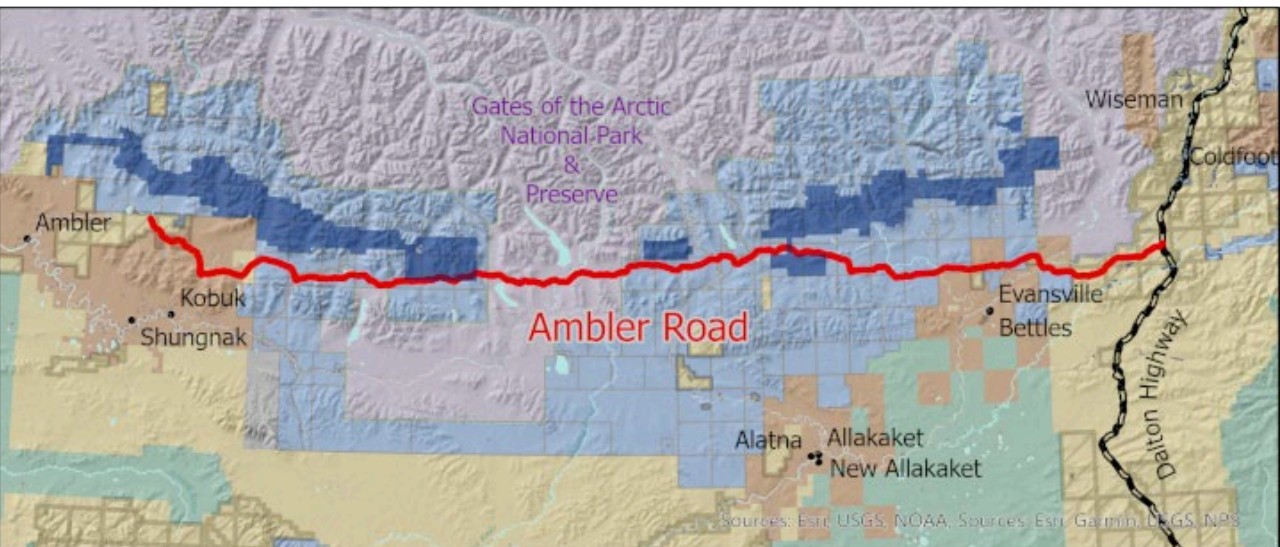
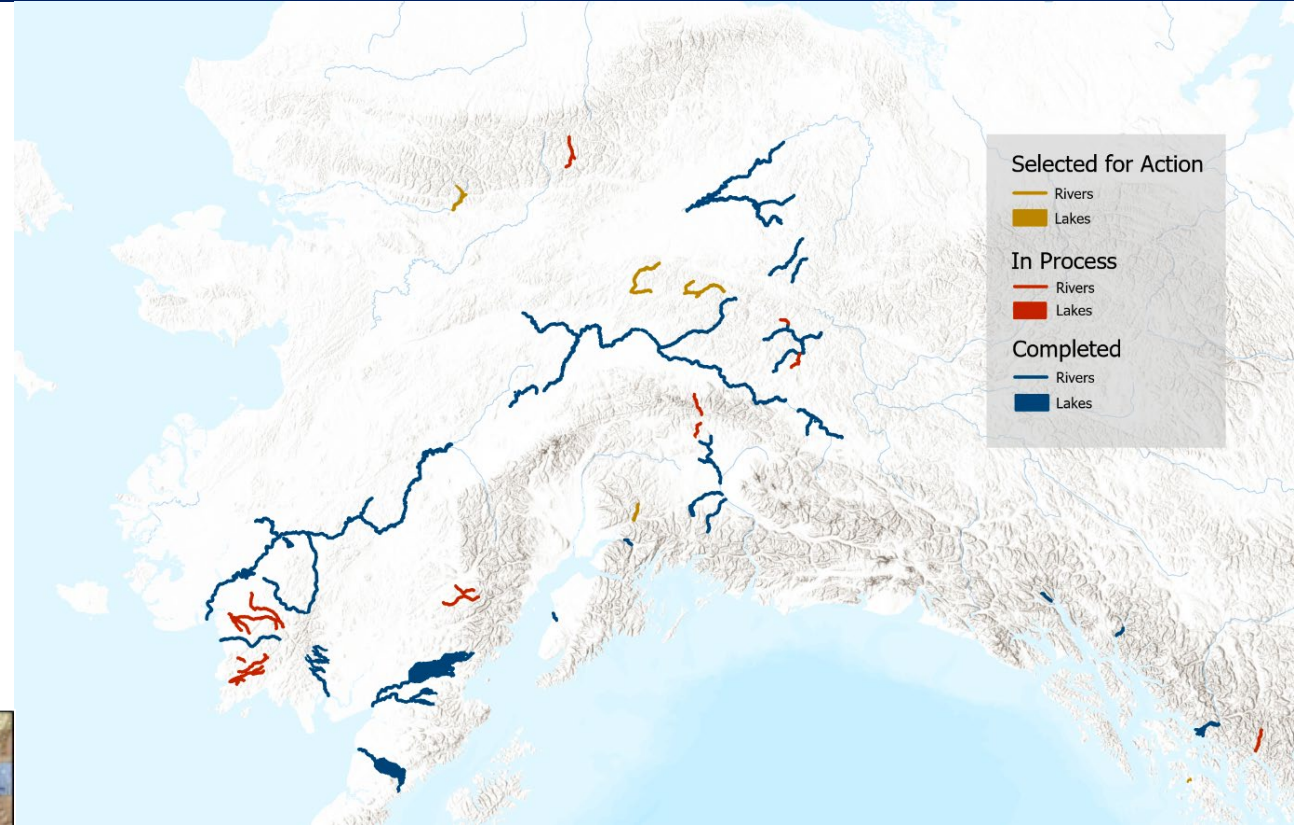
Alaska Public Records Act - Hourly Billing





Natural Resources / Energy / Environment

- Fulfill Constitutional Mandates of:
 - Maximum Use Consistent with the Public Interest
 - Sustained Yield Subject to Preferences Among Beneficial Uses



- Secure Alaskan Sovereignty over its Lands and Waters
- Safeguarding Public Access and Sustainability



Environmental Activities (2025)

- Adjudicatory hearings where we represented Commissioner and Staff – **5**
- Supreme Court 601 Appeal – **2**
- Superior Court 601 Appeal – **2**
- Informal reviews – **3**
- Cases in federal district court – **1**
- COBCs finalized – **2**
- Settlement Agreements Reached – **4**
- Amount of money obtained (settlements/assessments/judgment) – **\$27,259,364.15**
- Training DEC staff on enforcement or other topics – **6**
- Regulations packages developed and/or reviewed – **7**
- Federal cleanup documents reviewed – **10**
- Federal restoration documents reviewed – **1**
- Public records requests responded to – approximately **16**
- Prospective purchaser agreements negotiated – **2**
- Environmental Covenants reviewed – **9**
- Sign on analysis and monitoring for nationwide comment letters – **approximately 9**
- Sign on analysis and monitoring for nationwide lawsuits – **approximately 10**
- Legislative bills responsible for – **3**

DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL THE LEGAL ADVICE GIVEN ON A DAILY BASIS



FY2025 MONIES COLLECTED

Note: \$ in thousands

Health, Safety, and
Welfare
\$4,000.0

Labor, Business, and
Corporations
\$3,985.0

Resource
Development and
Infrastructure
\$27,419.0

Special Litigation and
Appeals
\$1,203.0

Civil Defense
Litigation
\$6,639.0

\$43,246.0



FY2025 MITIGATION

Note: \$ in thousands

Oil & Gas
\$90,000.0

Transportation
\$2,000.0

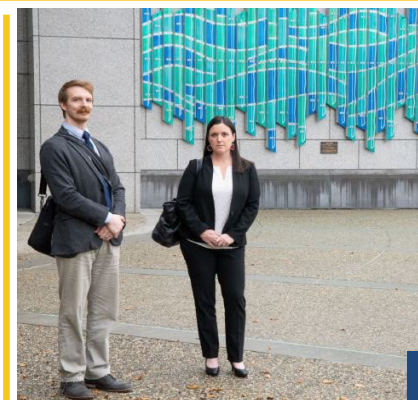
\$92,000.0



CRIMINAL DIVISION

MISSION

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





HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

What we do

Prosecute Violations of **state** criminal laws

What we do not do

Prosecute violations of **federal** criminal laws

Prosecute violations of **municipal** criminal laws

Prosecute traffic tickets



CRIMINAL DIVISION ORGANIZATION



Palmer
Trina Sears



Anchorage
Brittany Dunlop



Kenai
Daniel Strigle



Juneau & Sitka
Whitney-Marie Bostick



Ketchikan
Alex Kramarczuk



Appeals
Tamara DeLucia



Special Prosecutions
Jenna Gruenstein



Kotzebue & Nome
Scot Leaders



Fairbanks & Utqiagvik
Joe Dallaire



Bethel
Mark Clark



Kodiak
William Vitkus



CENTRAL OFFICE

Kaci Schroeder,
Legislative
Specialist

Chrissy Sherman,
Training

Michael Ebell,
Training

Kathe Tallmadge,
Recruitment &
Retention

Anne Bruno,
MMIP & Tribal
Liaison

Melissa Luce,
Competency

Grace Lee,
Therapeutic
Courts

Sarah Stanley,
Dept. of Public
Safety

Cate Pierson,
Dept. of
Corrections



PROGRESS REPORT

Case trends

Caseloads

Time to disposition

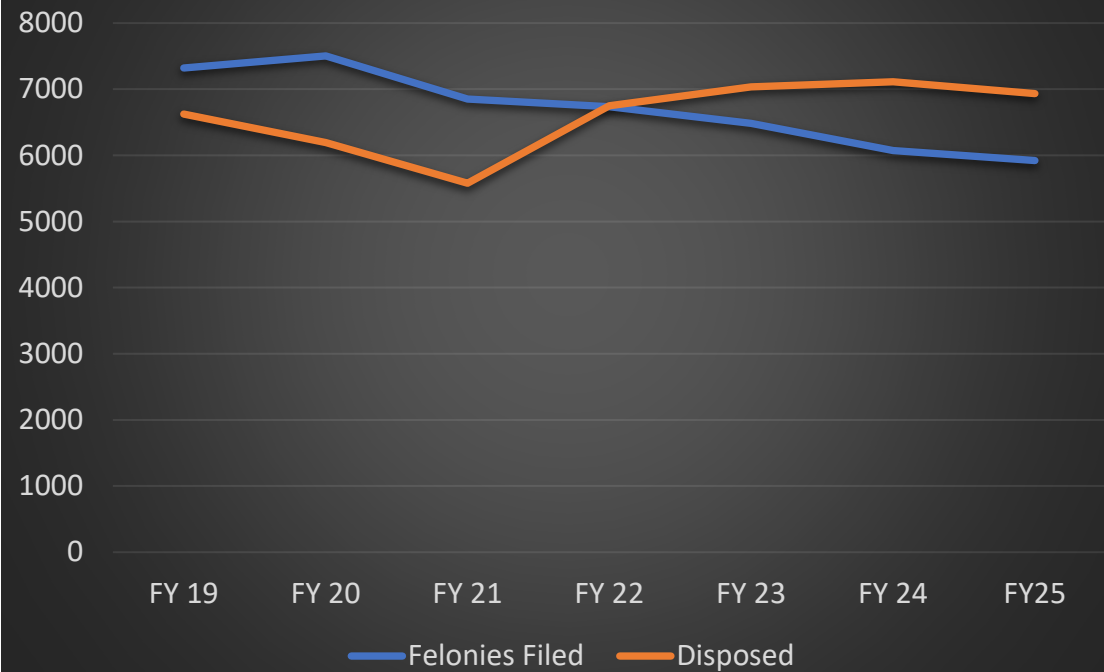
Retention & Recruitment



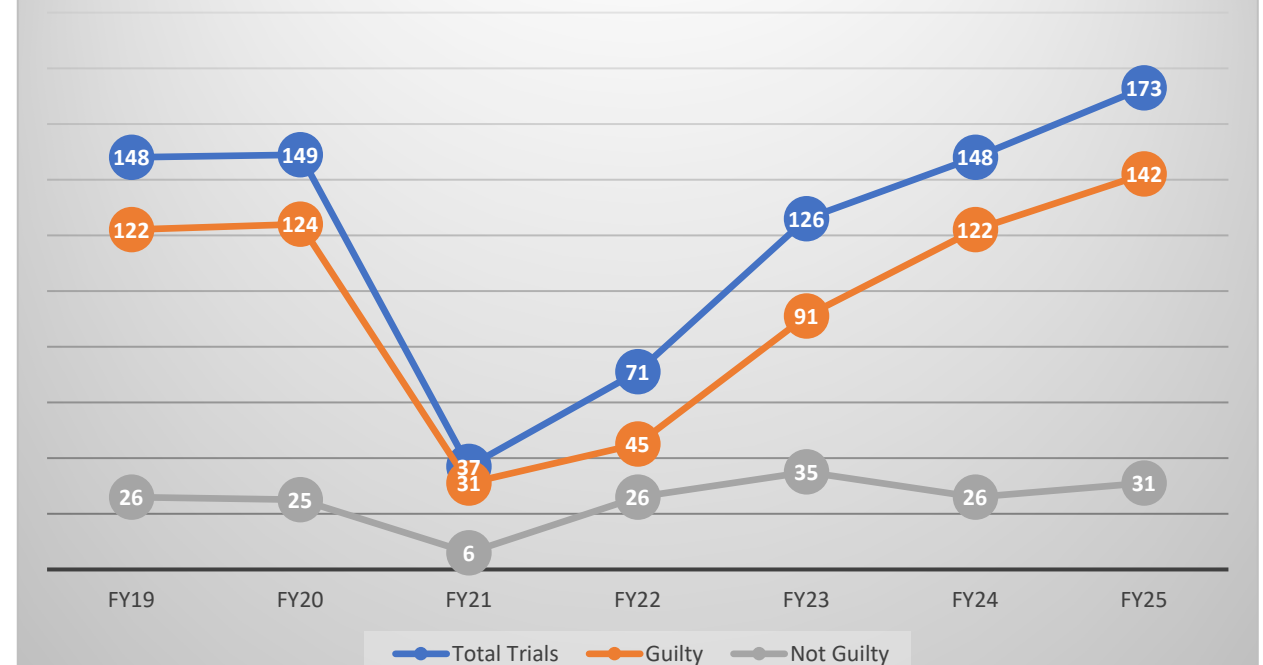
FELONIES

- More cases disposed than filed
- Felony filings continue to decrease
- FY 2025 conviction rate 82%
- Felony trials continue to increase

Felony Filings v. Disposed
FY 2019 – FY 2025



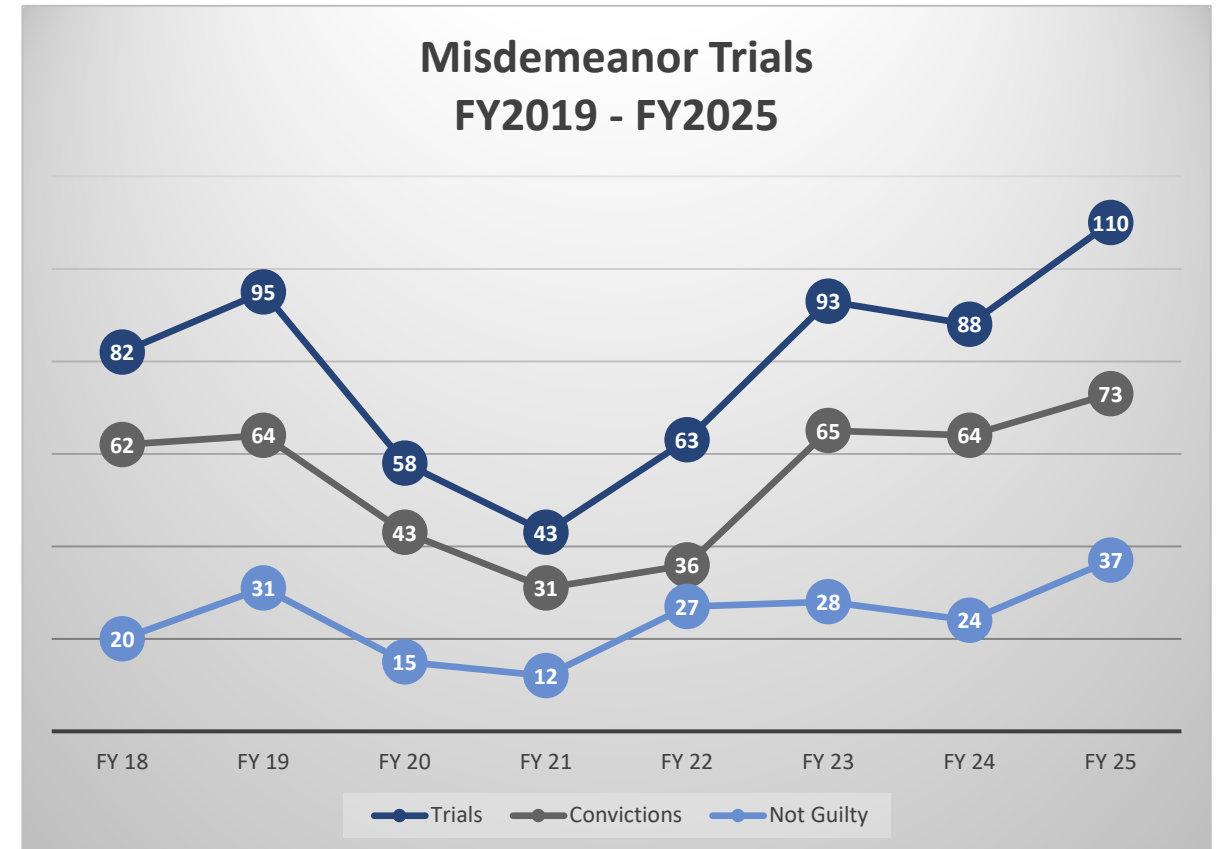
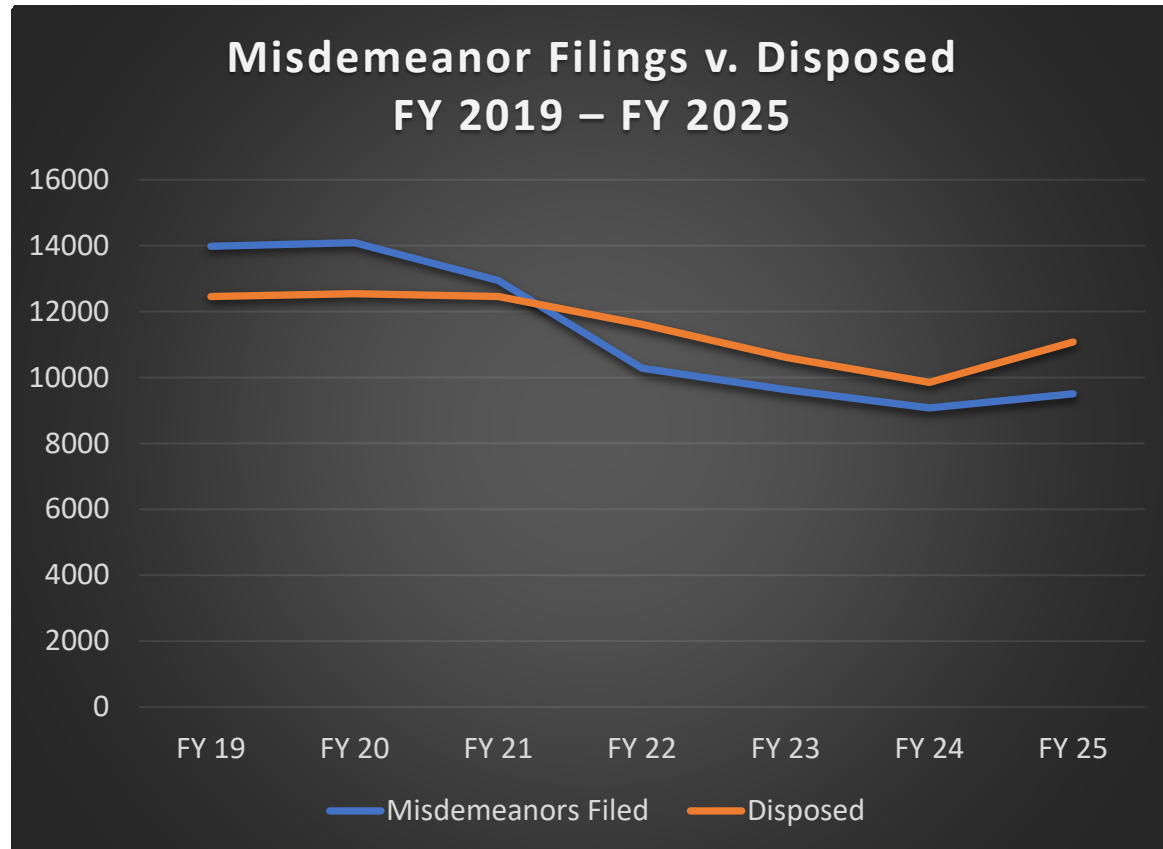
Felony Trial Comparison
FY 2019 – FY 2025





MISDEMEANORS

- More cases disposed than filed
- Number of misdemeanor trials up
- FY 2025 conviction rate of 66%

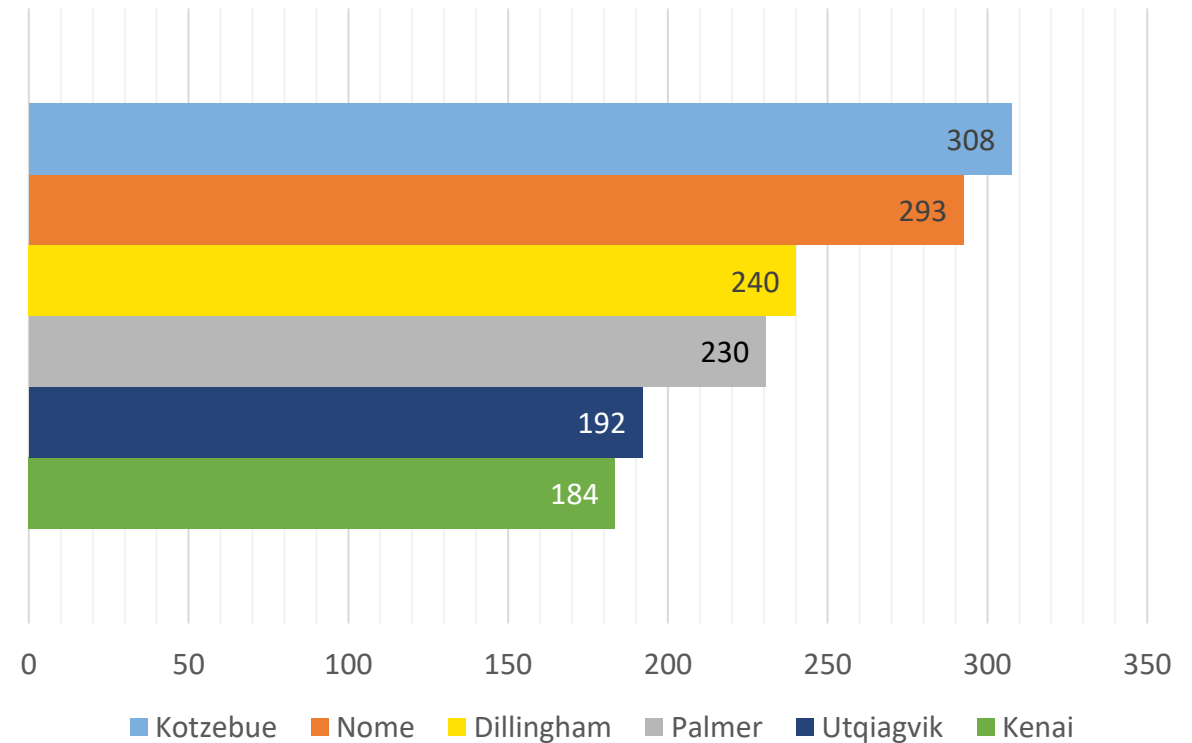




CASELOADS

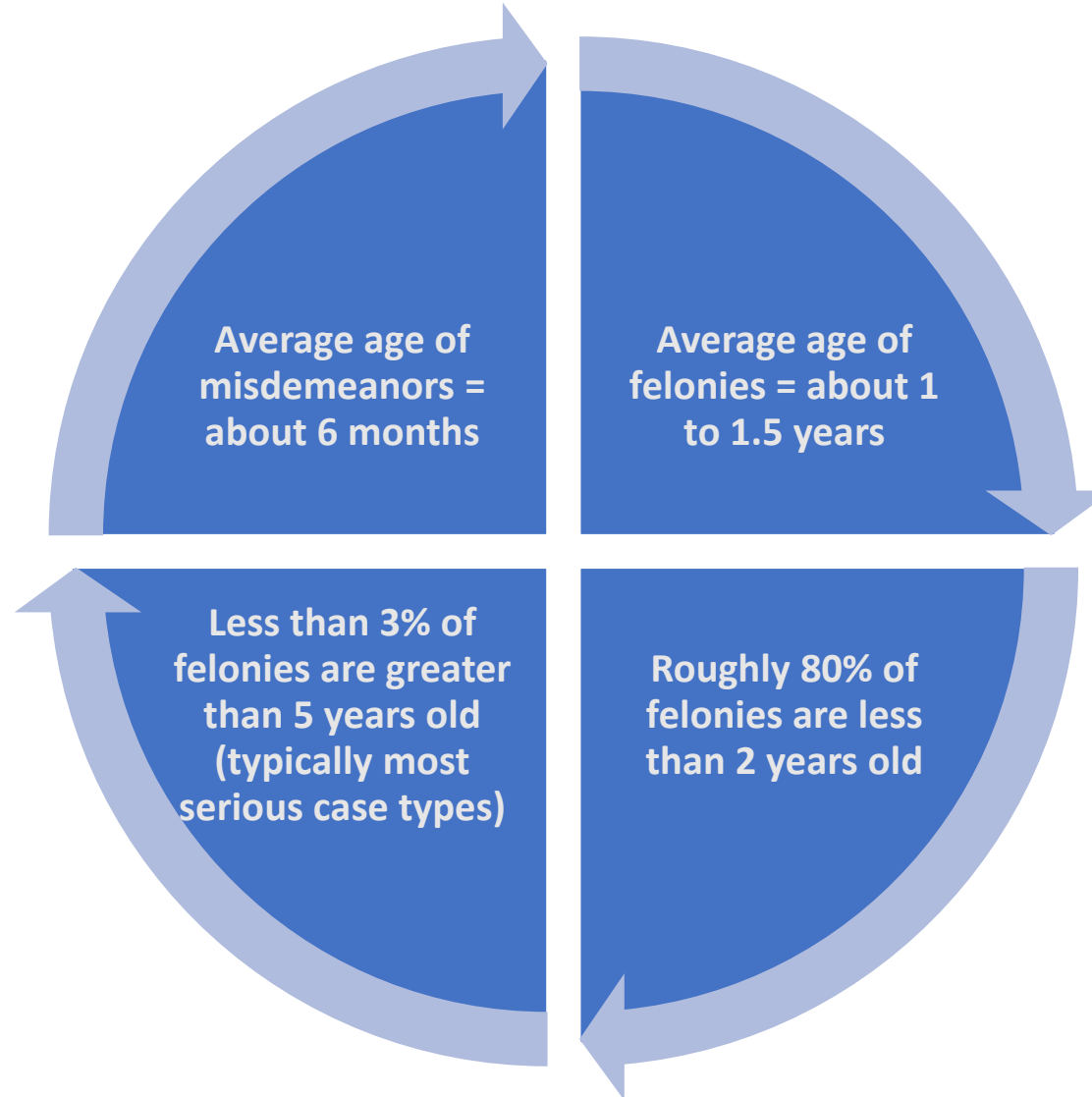
- ✓ **121 attorneys dedicated to prosecuting cases statewide**
- ✓ **Average caseload = 167 cases per attorney**
- ✓ **Median combined caseload = 169**

Offices with the Highest Caseloads Per Attorney (1.13.26)





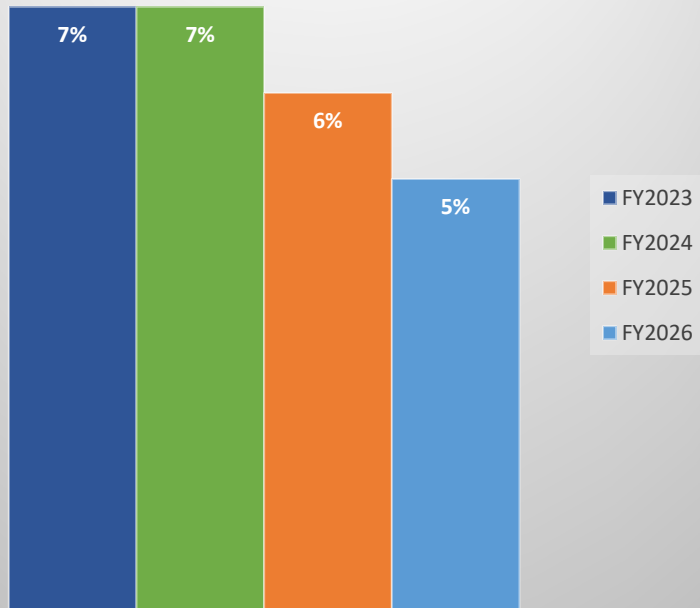
TIME TO DISPOSITION



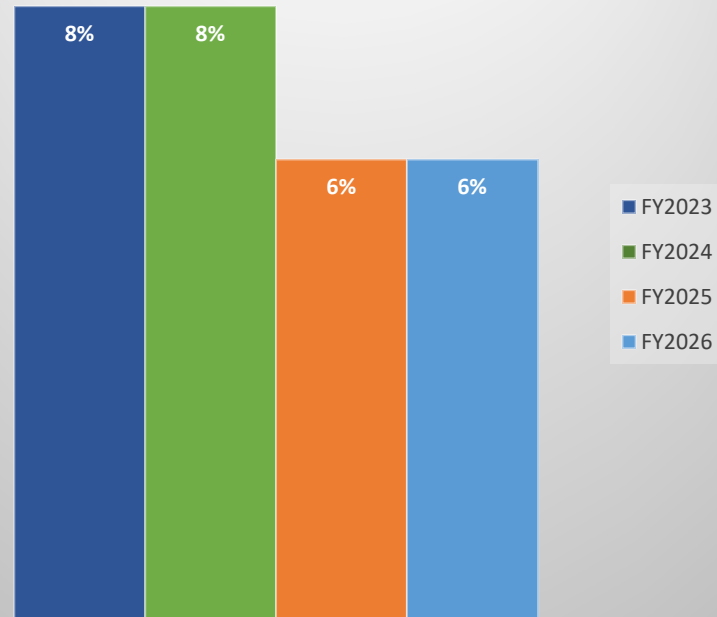


VACANCY RATES

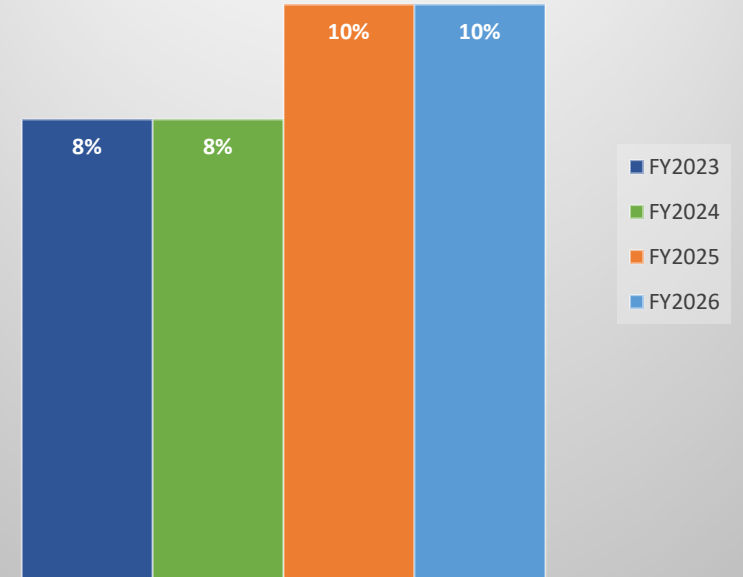
Attorney Vacancy Rates



Paralegal Vacancy Rates

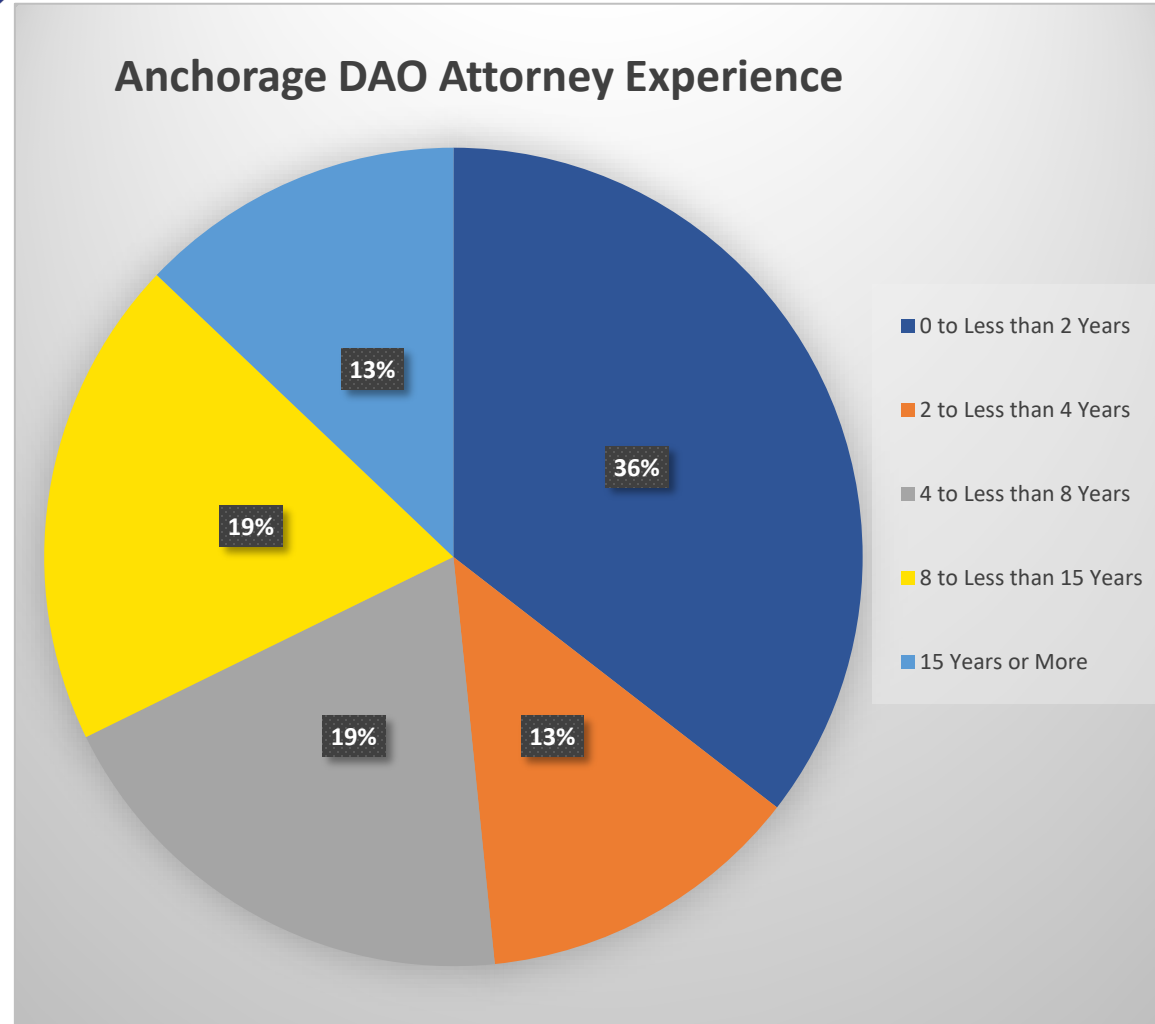


Support Staff Vacancy Rates





ANCHORAGE DAO EXPERIENCE LEVEL



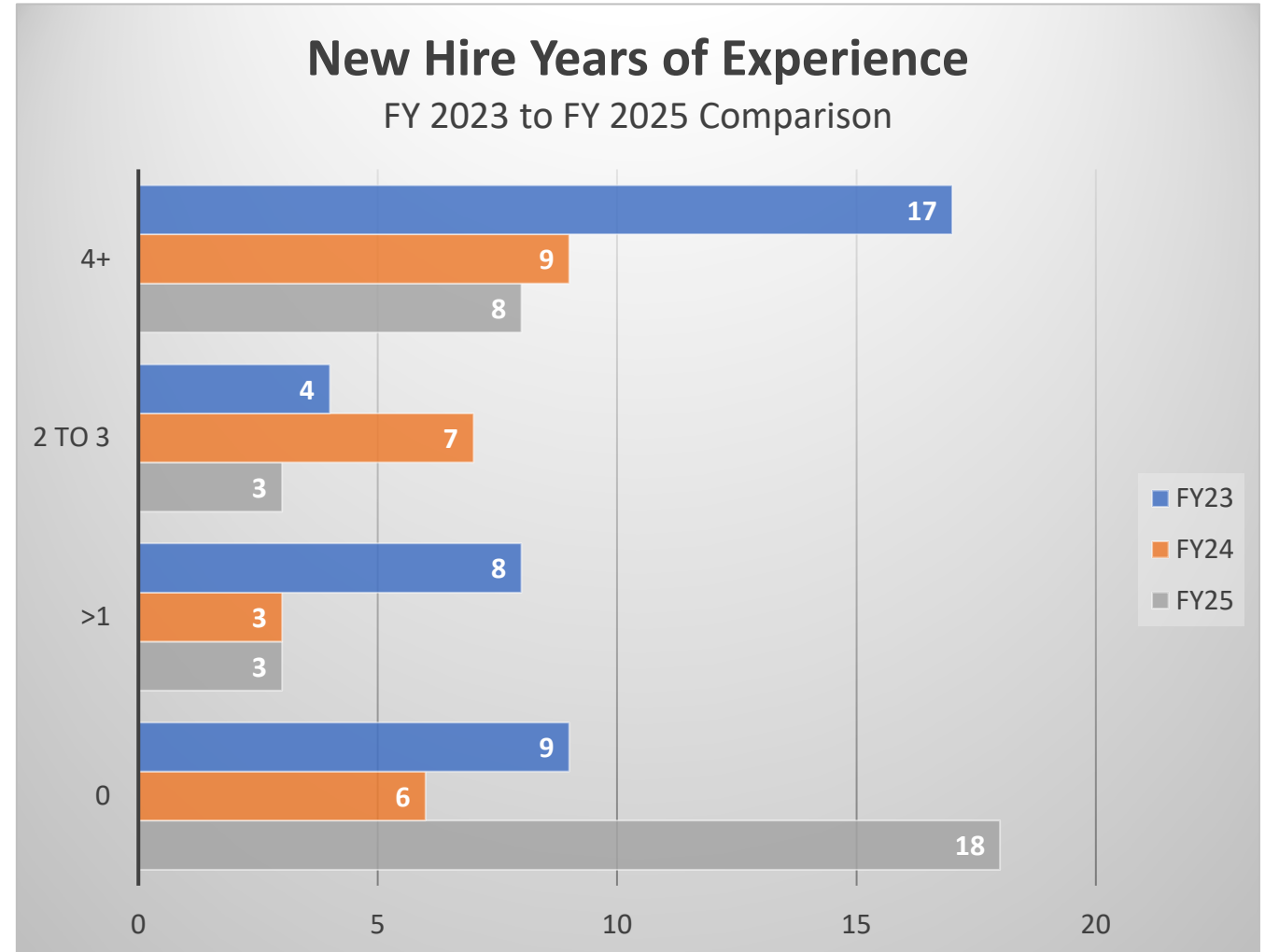
- Anchorage is the largest office
- 11 of the 37 prosecutors have limited to no experience as an attorney
- 287 Unclassified and Class A felonies pending
- In FY 2025 this office tried 11 Murders and 14 sexual offenses

Note: this data is as of January 23, 2026, and reflects “licensed experience” – it is not limited to experience as a prosecutor. Experience levels differ by office.



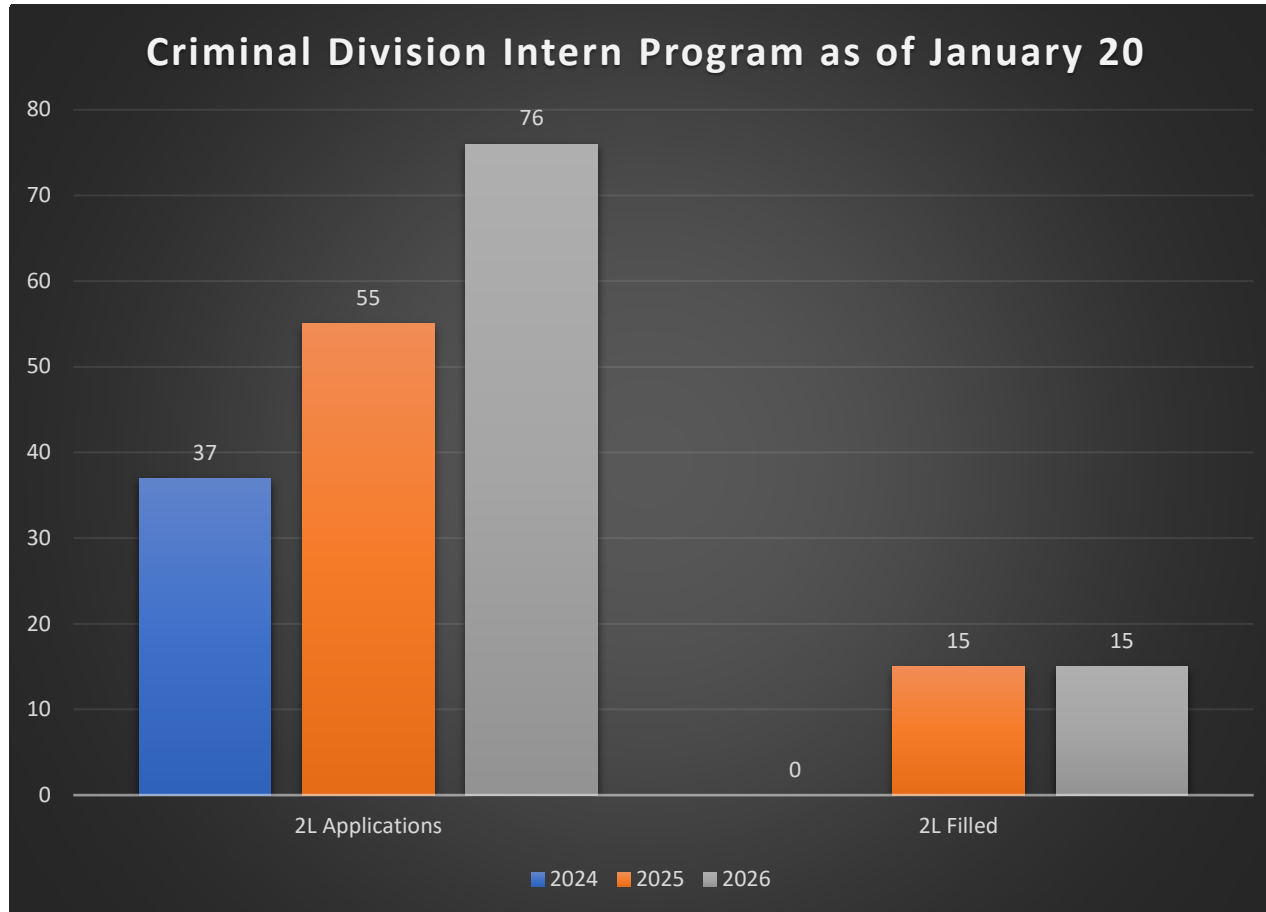
RECRUITMENT TRENDS

- **56%** of prosecutors hired in FY 2025 had no licensed experience
- **25%** of prosecutors hired in FY 2025 had 4+ years of licensed experience at time of hire





INTERNSHIPS – CRIMINAL DIVISION



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

76 Applicants 2Ls and 35 1L or Others

105% increase from 2024 and a 38% increase from 2025

Applicants from **35 states** and DC

15 2L positions are already filled

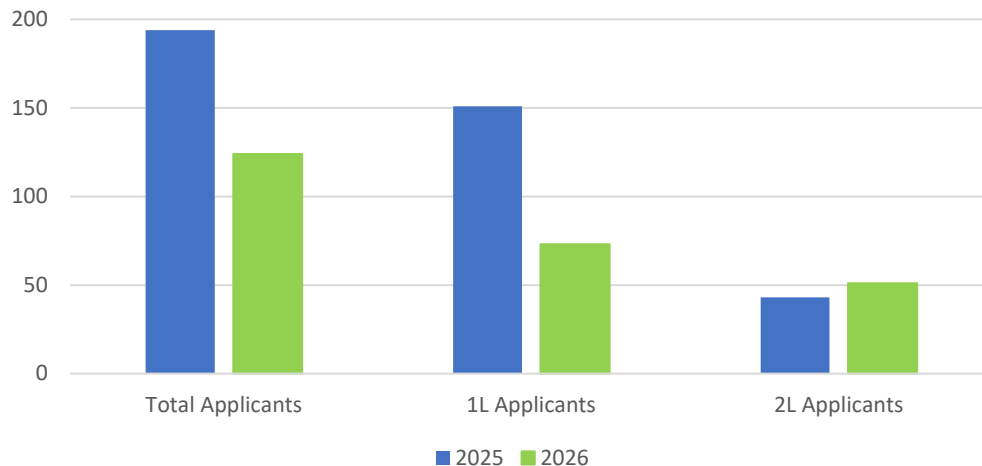
Working in **8 of our 13** offices statewide, including the rural communities of Bethel and Kodiak

Broad cross-section of schools

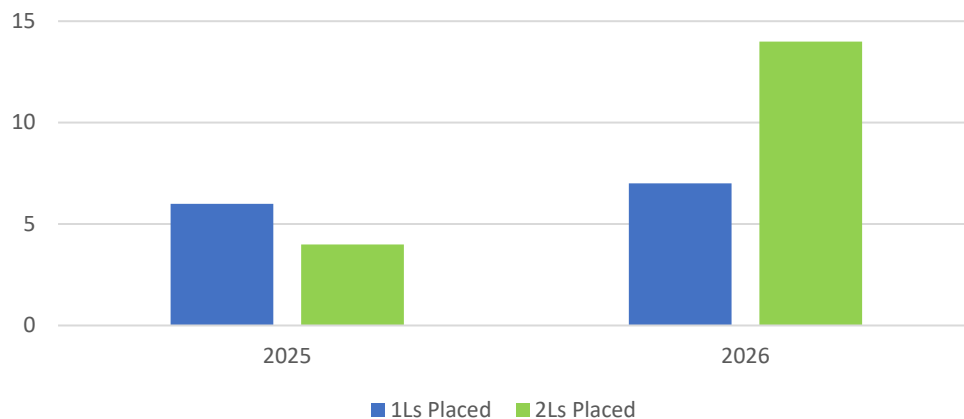


INTERNSHIPS – CIVIL DIVISION

Intern Applications



Intern Placement

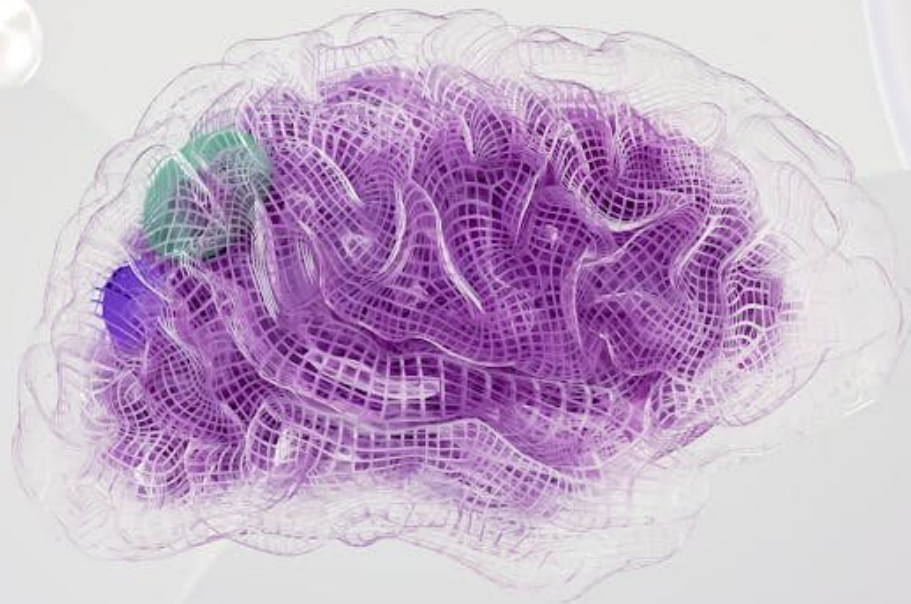


- Very successful recruitment cycle
- 124 applications from 36 states and 66 law schools¹
- **21 intern positions filled**, months ahead of schedule²
- **200% increase** from 2025 in number of interns appointed
- **29** offers were made, **21** offers were accepted (72%)
- **14 of 21 appointees are 2Ls (67%)** (up from 40% in 2025)
- **8** appointees are either Alaskans, have ties to Alaska, and/or are returning employees or interns
- Prospects are reporting that our online presence, testimonials, word of mouth, and legal landscape are thorough, positive, and very appealing



Utilizing Artificial Intelligence

AI Technology and the Evolving Legal Landscape





QUESTIONS

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Civil Division

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