



# 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



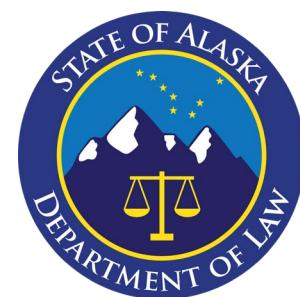
**John Skidmore**  
Senior Litigation Counsel,  
Criminal Division



**Anne Helzer**  
Chief AAG  
Special Projects & Initiatives



**Sharla Mylar**  
Special Assistant & Tribal  
Liaison, Civil Division



**Sam Curtis**  
Information Officer  
Communications Team

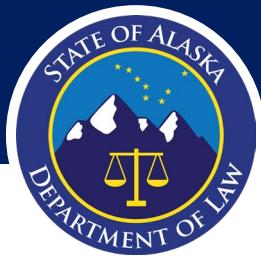


**Ninja Dizon**  
Executive Secretary



# 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

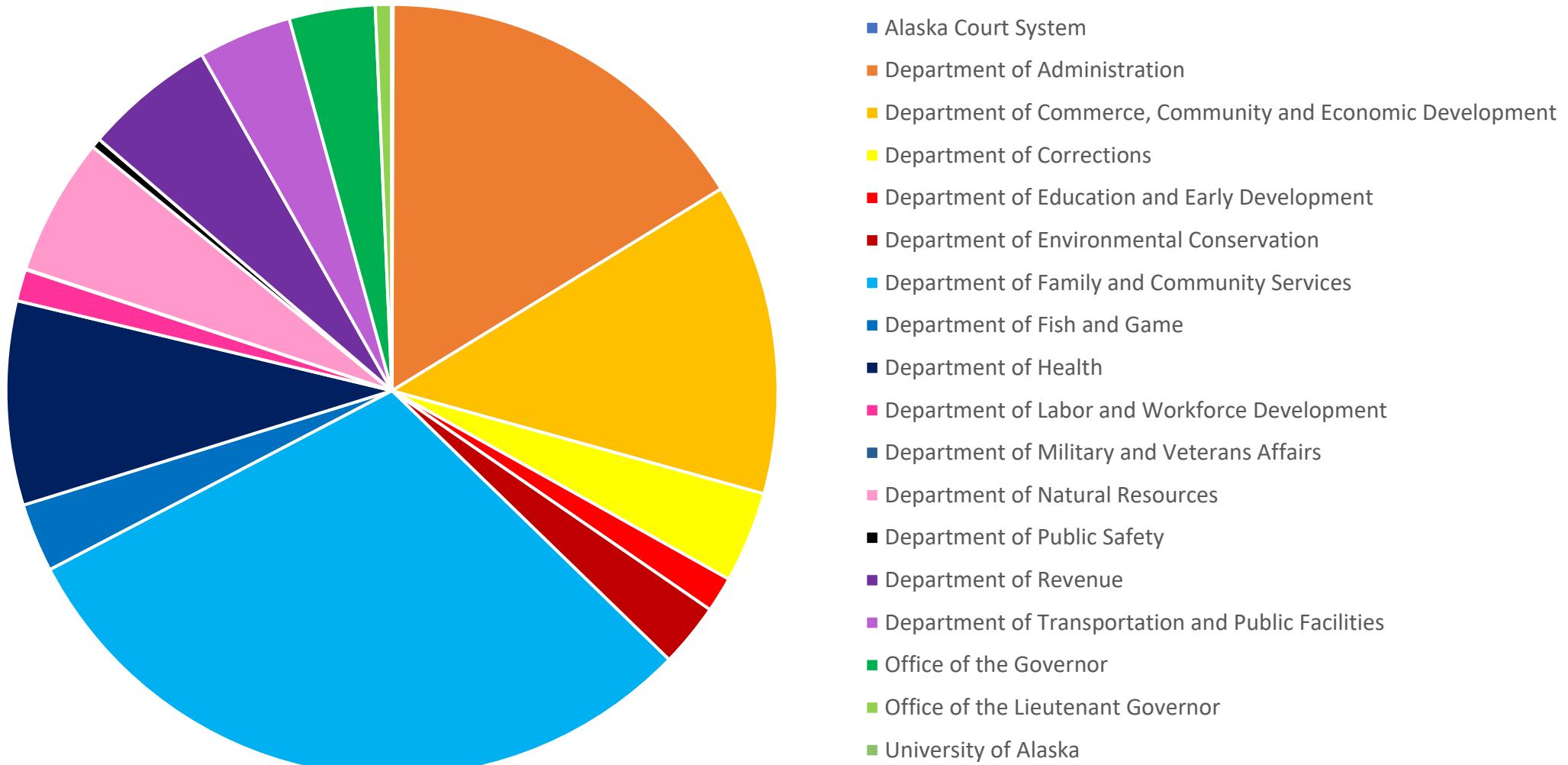
## MISSION

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





# FY25 Civil Hours Billed by Client Agency



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



**Georgia Smithee**  
TWC, Juneau



**Mary Gramling**  
OG, Juneau



**Jenn Currie**  
ENV, Anchorage



**Sean Lynch**  
TR, Juneau



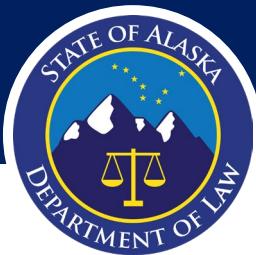
**Kevin Dilg**  
COR, Juneau



**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

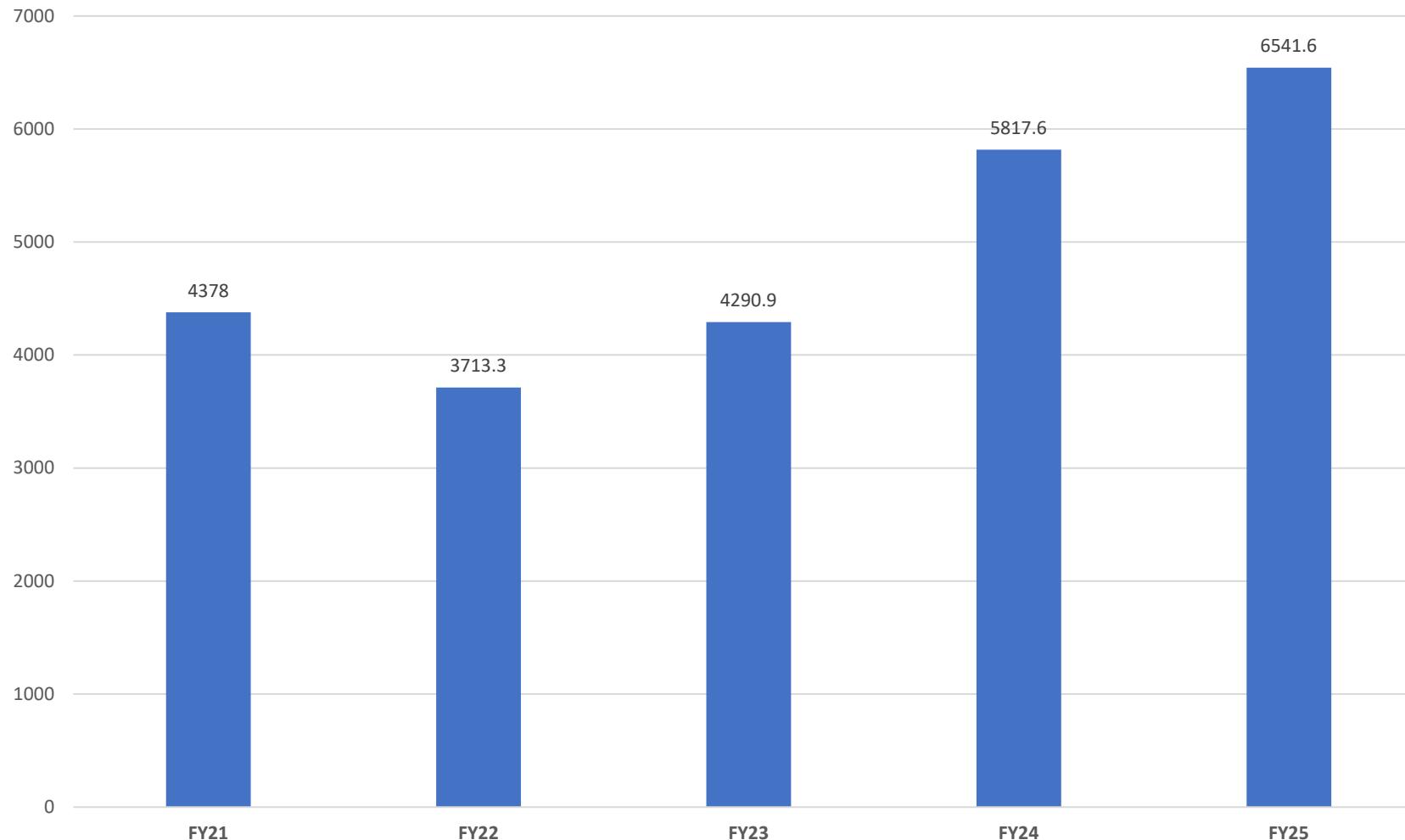
**936** civil commitment petitions granted

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



# Alaska Public Records Act - Hourly Billing

## Civil Division APRA-related billing

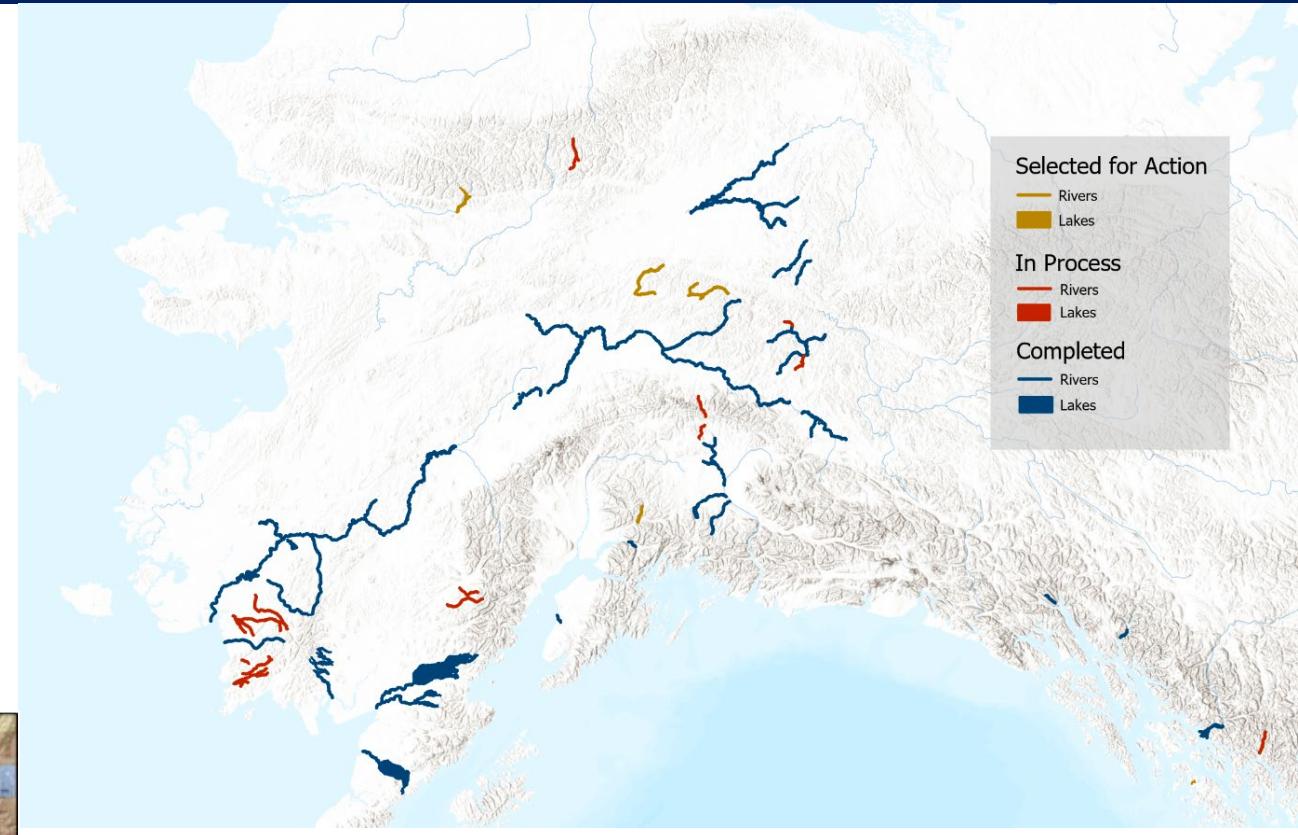
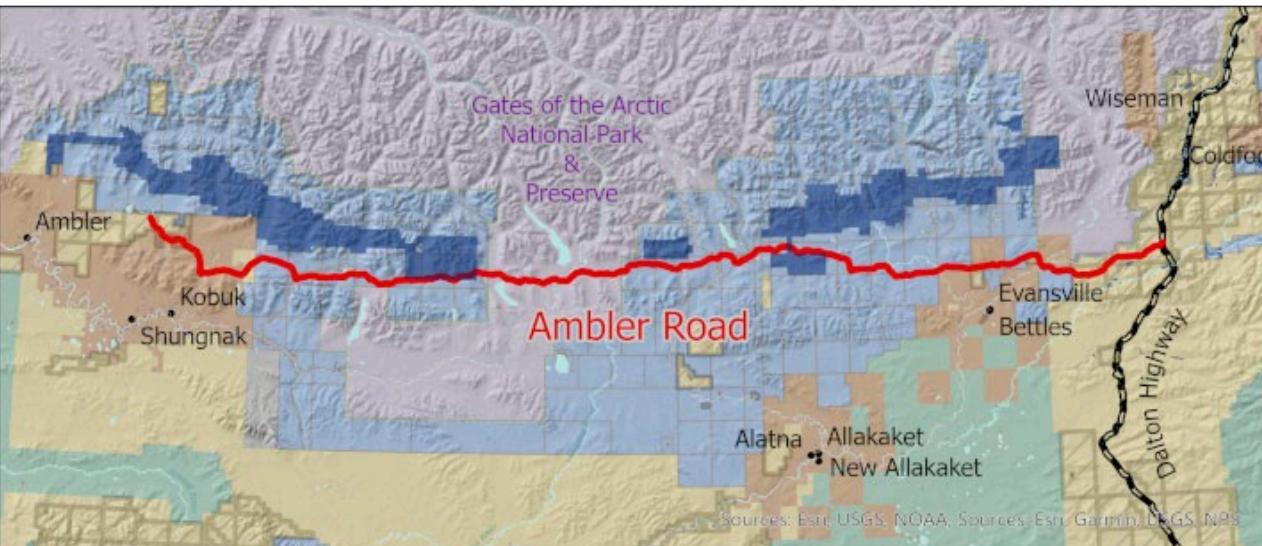




# Natural Resources / Energy / Environment

- 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.



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# 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



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



**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**

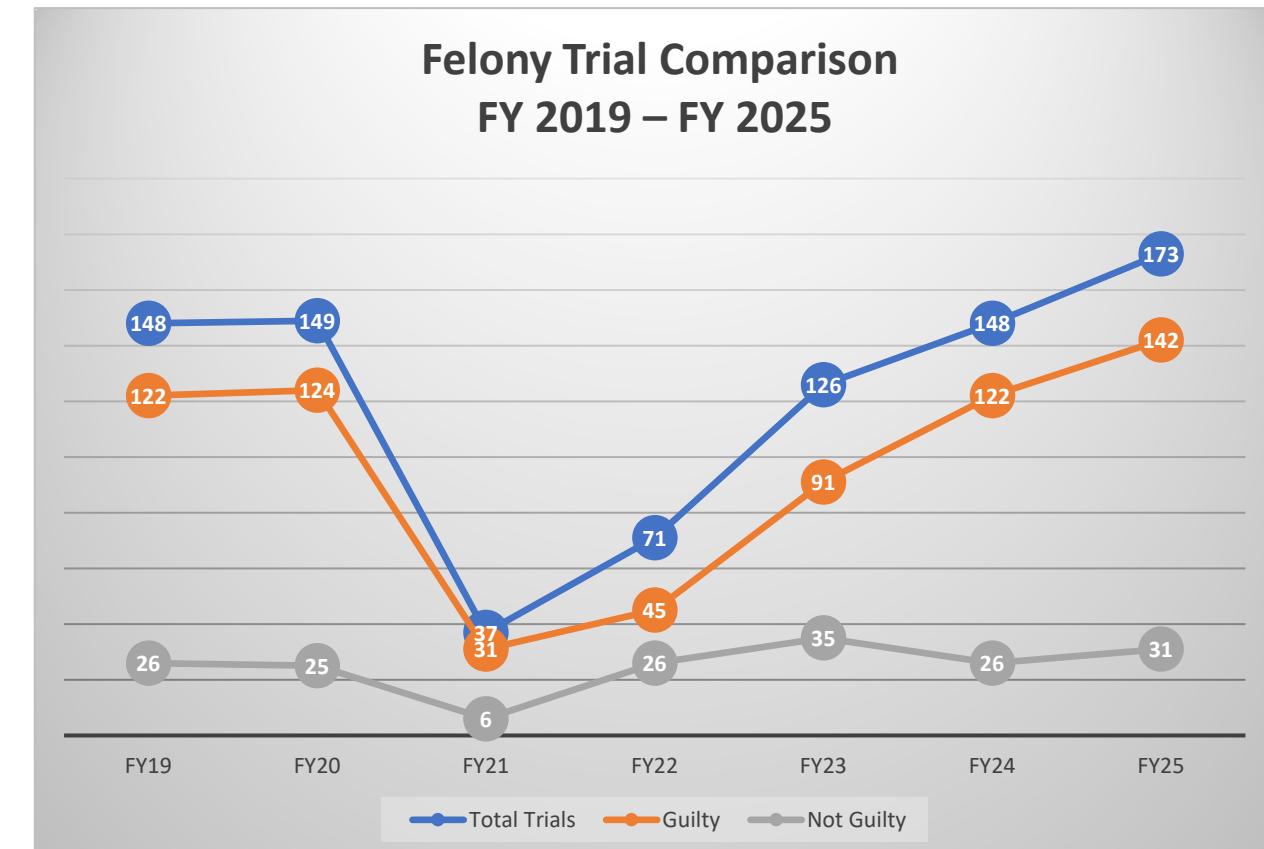
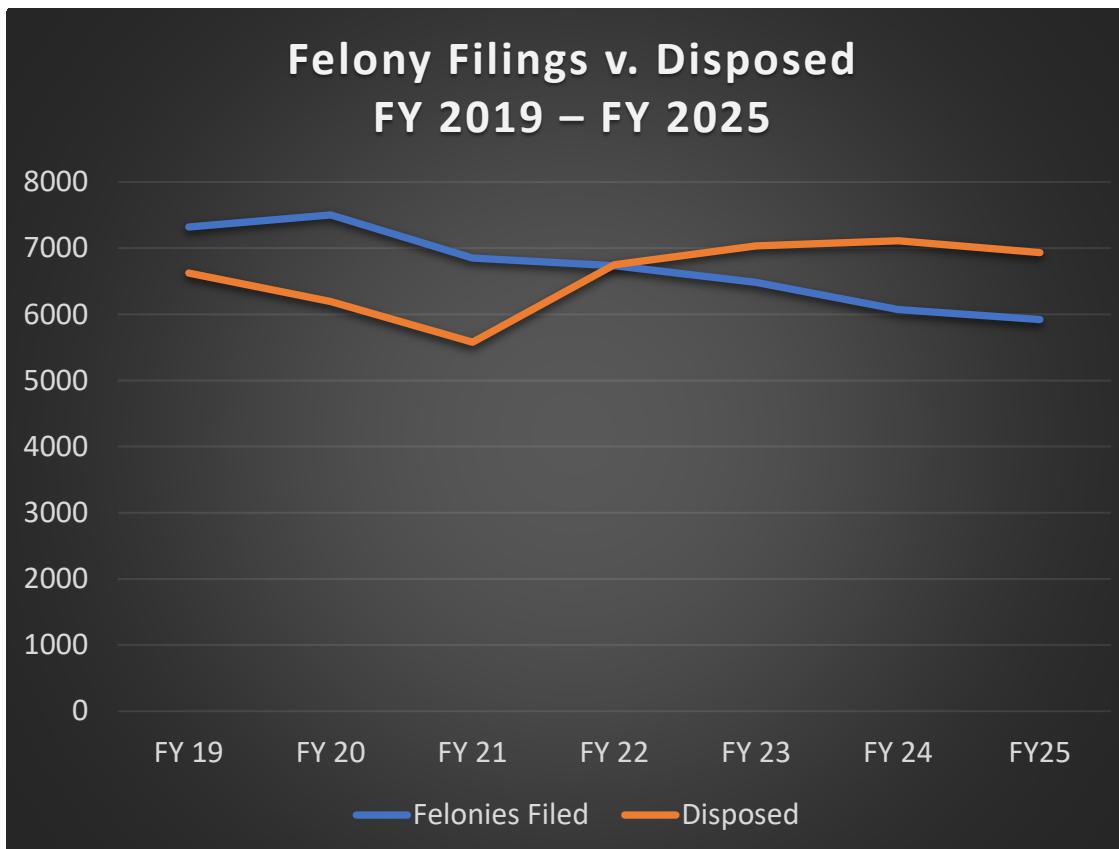
**Time to disposition**

**Retention & Recruitment**



# FELONIES

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

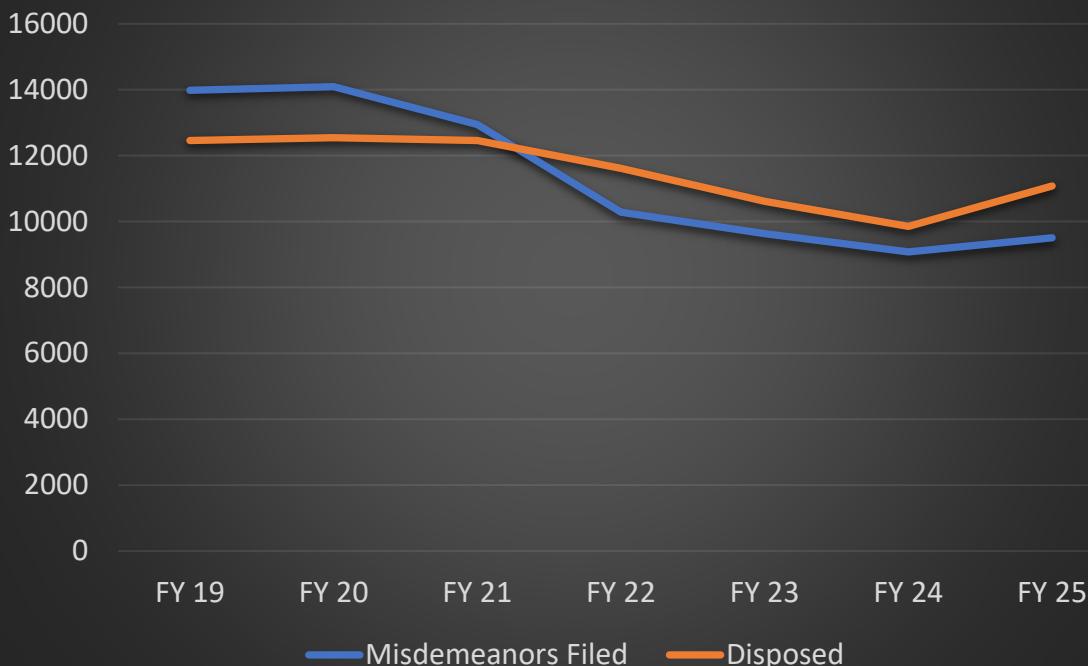




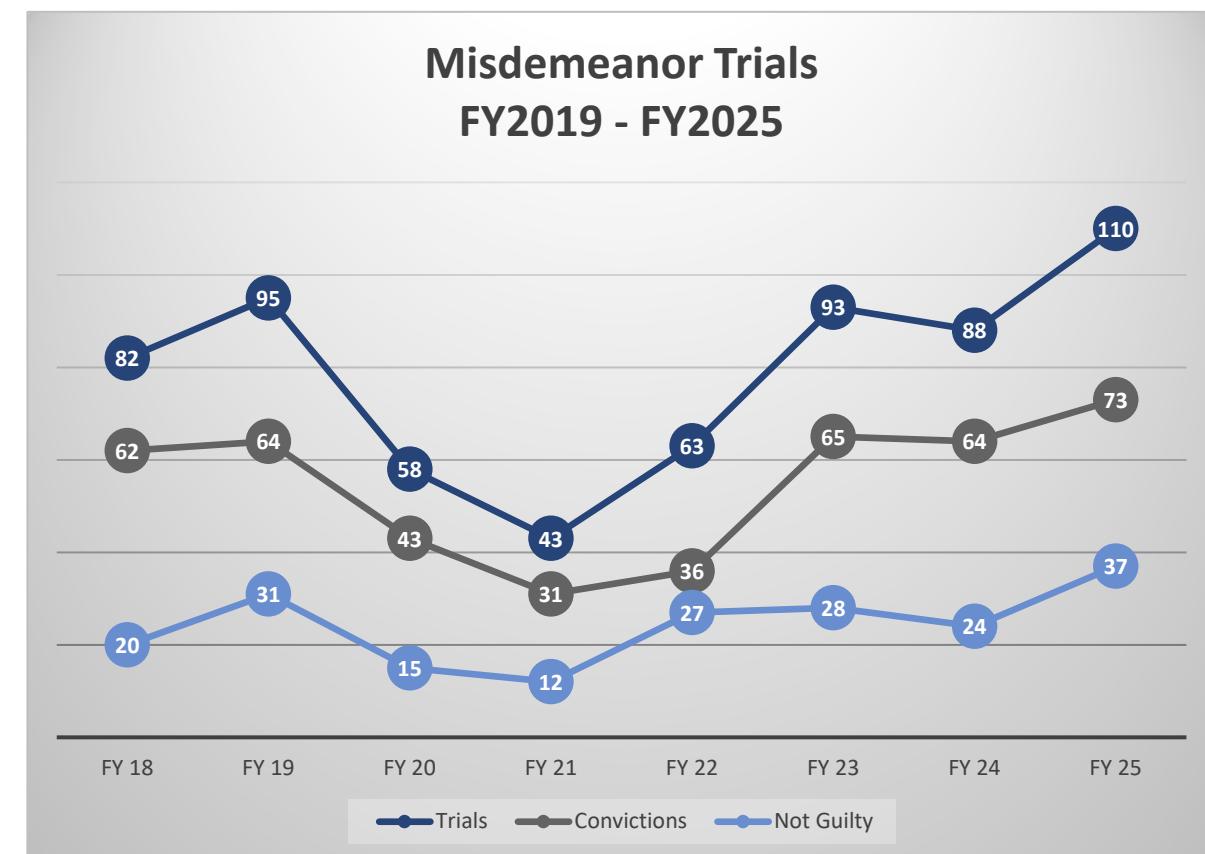
# MISDEMEANORS

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

**Misdemeanor Filings v. Disposed**  
**FY 2019 – FY 2025**



**Misdemeanor Trials**  
**FY2019 - FY2025**

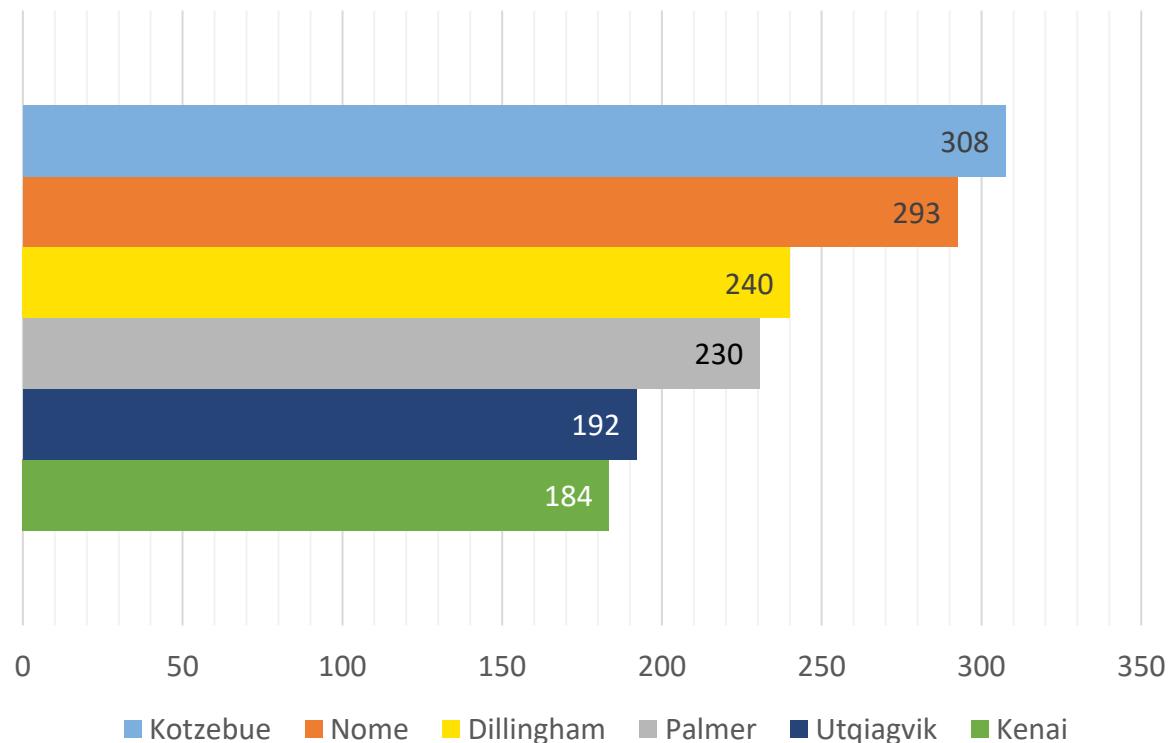




# CASELOADS

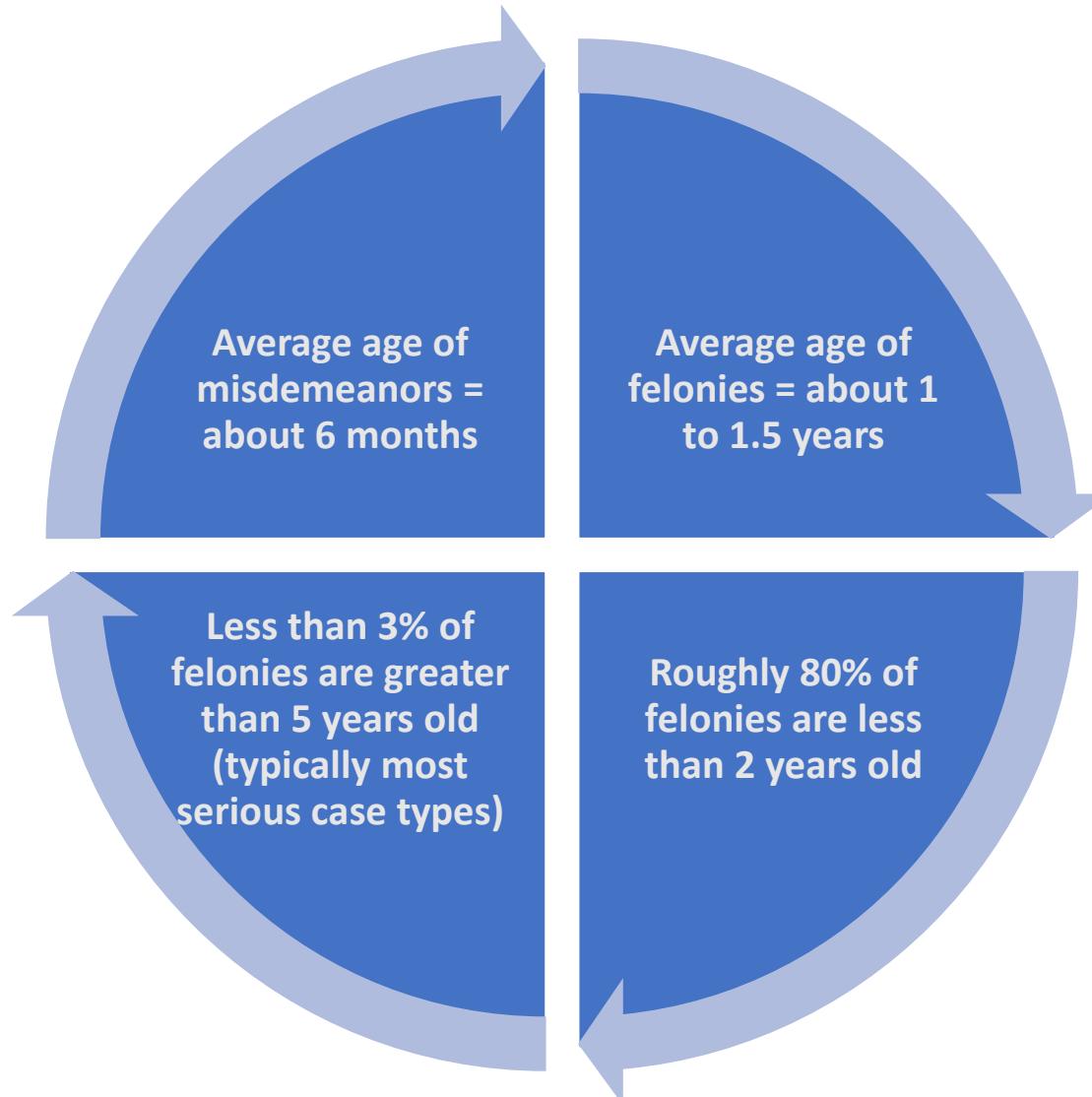
- ✓ **121 attorneys dedicated to prosecuting cases statewide**
- ✓ **Average caseload = 167 cases per attorney**
- ✓ **Median combined caseload = 169**

Offices with the Highest Caseloads Per Attorney (1.13.26)





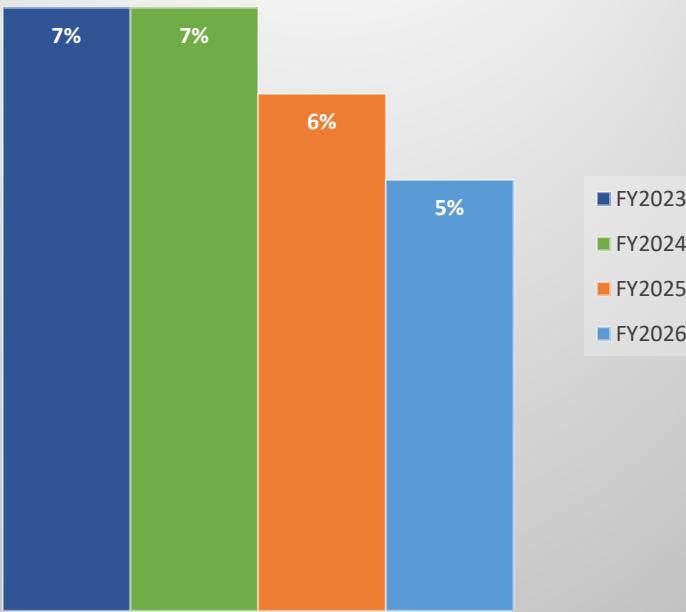
# TIME TO DISPOSITION



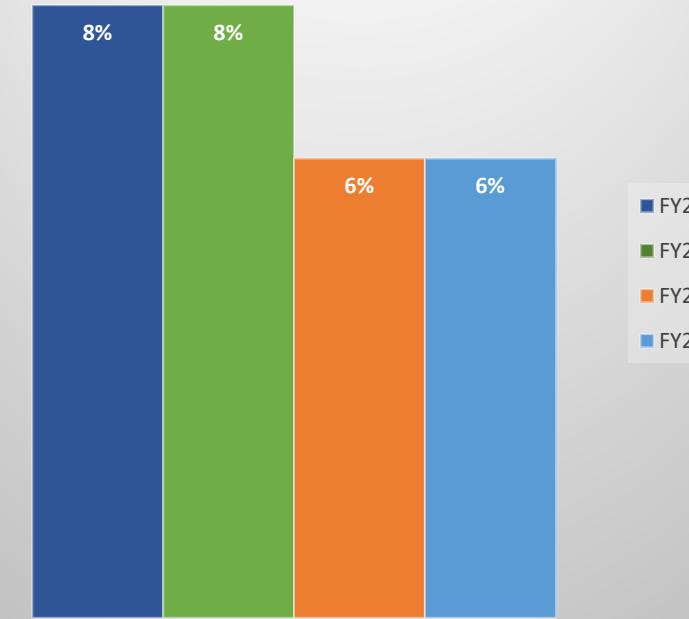


# VACANCY RATES

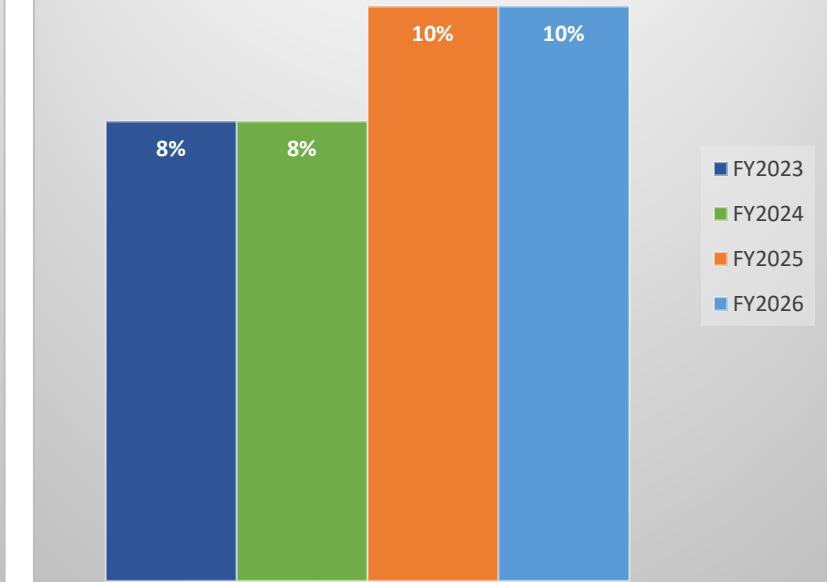
## Attorney Vacancy Rates

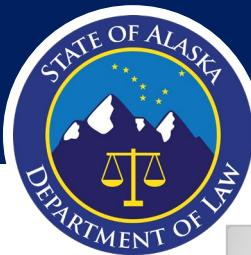


## Paralegal Vacancy Rates

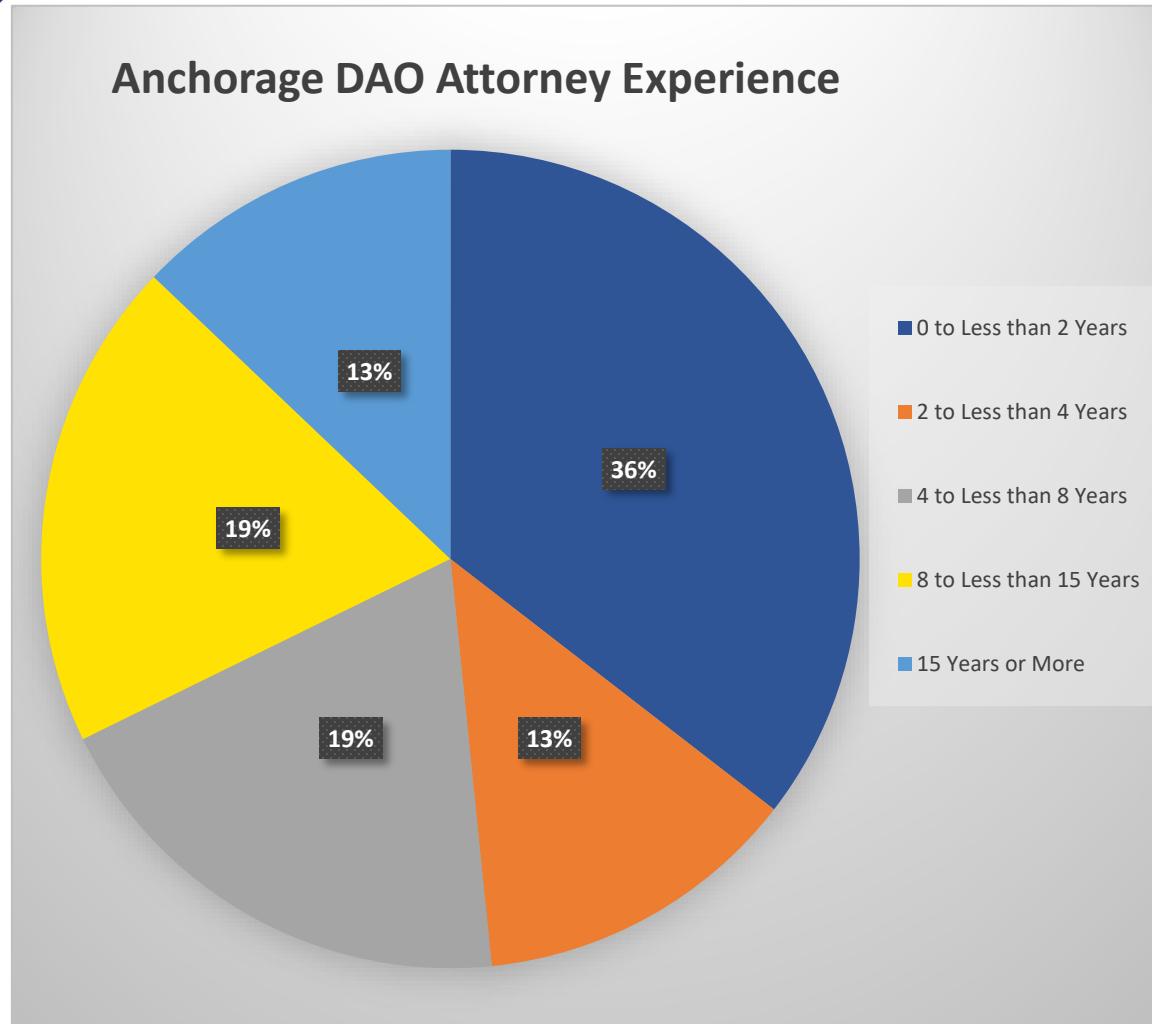


## Support Staff Vacancy Rates





# ANCHORAGE DAO EXPERIENCE LEVEL

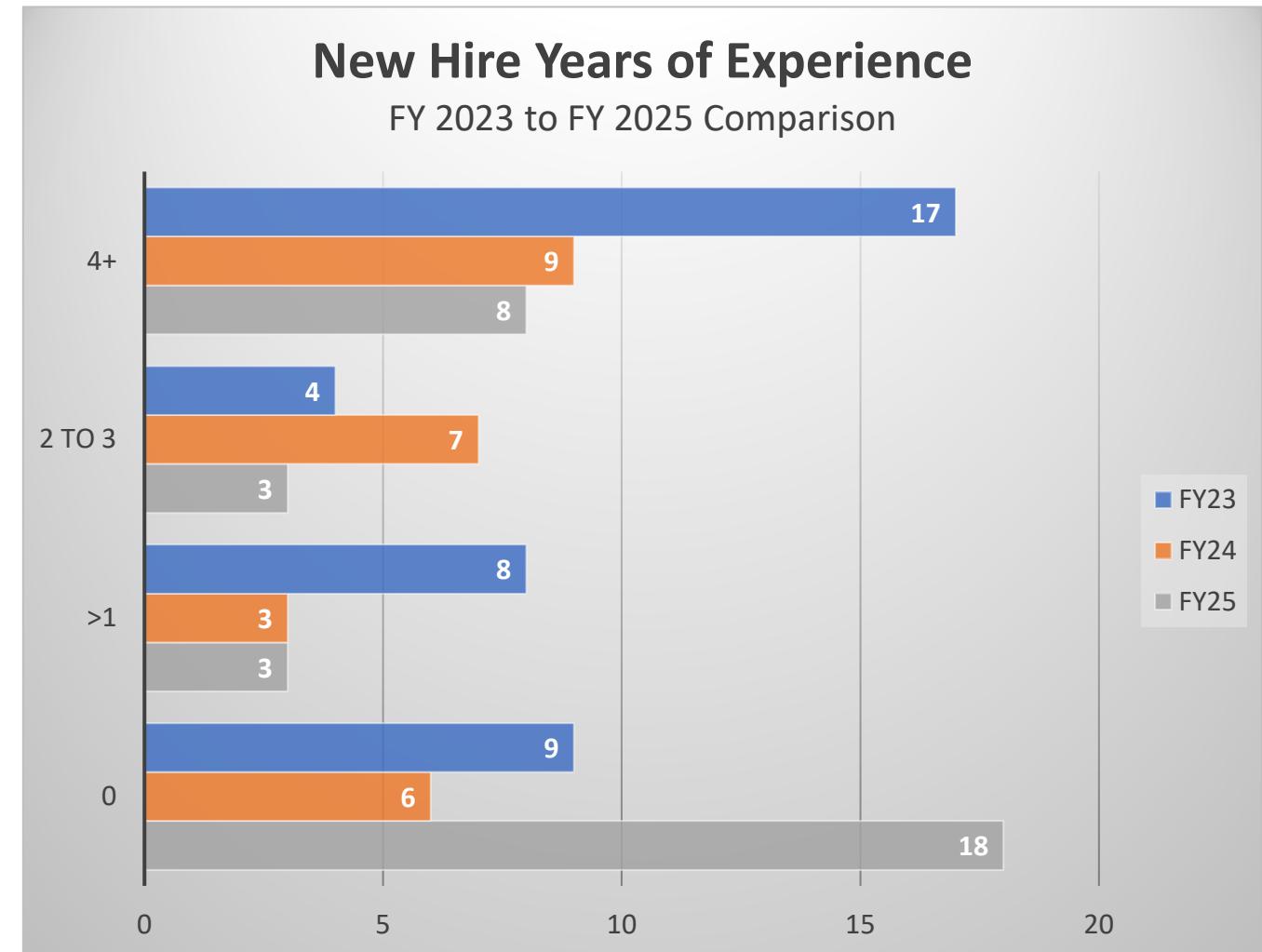


**Note:** this data is as of January 23, 2026, and reflects "licensed experience" – it is not limited to experience as a prosecutor. Experience levels differ by office.



# RECRUITMENT TRENDS

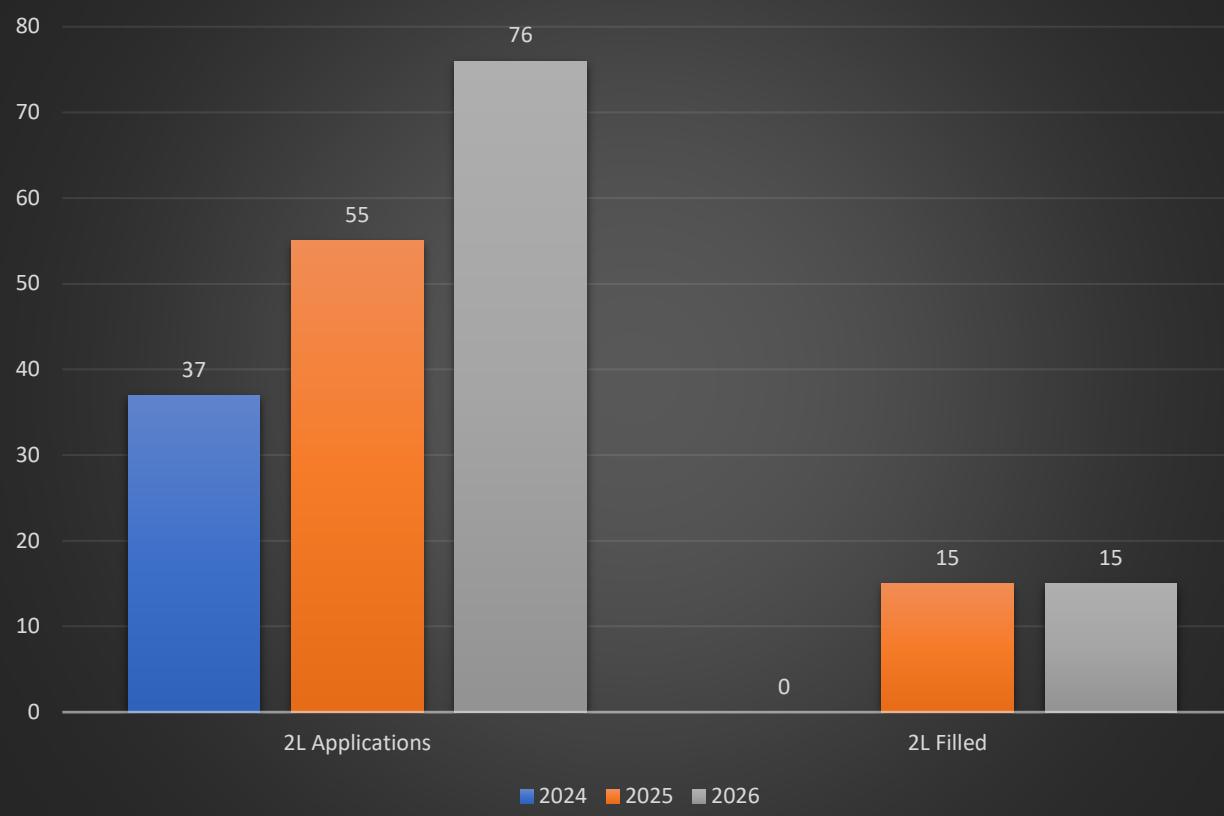
- **56%** of prosecutors hired in FY 2025 had no licensed experience
- **25%** of prosecutors hired in FY 2025 had 4+ years of licensed experience at time of hire





# INTERNSHIPS – CRIMINAL DIVISION

## Criminal Division Intern Program as of January 20



\*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

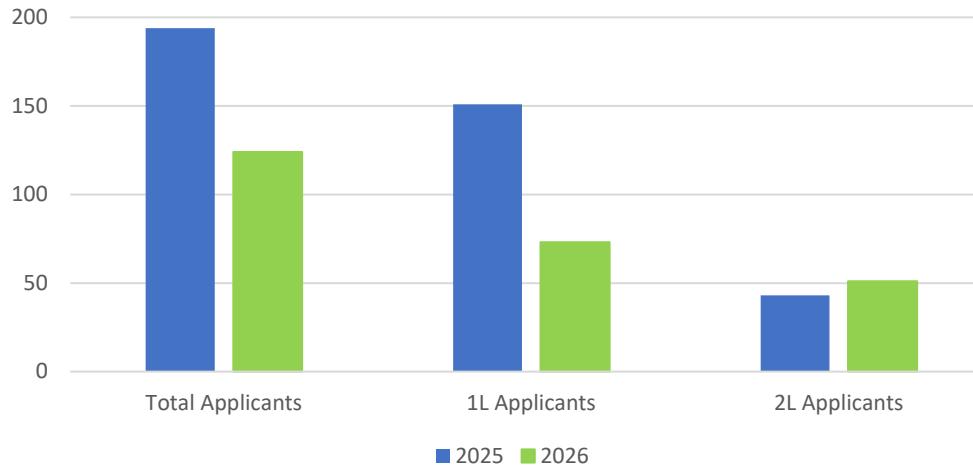
Working in **8 of our 13** offices statewide, including the rural communities of Bethel and Kodiak

Broad cross-section of schools



# INTERNSHIPS – CIVIL DIVISION

Intern Applications



Intern Placement

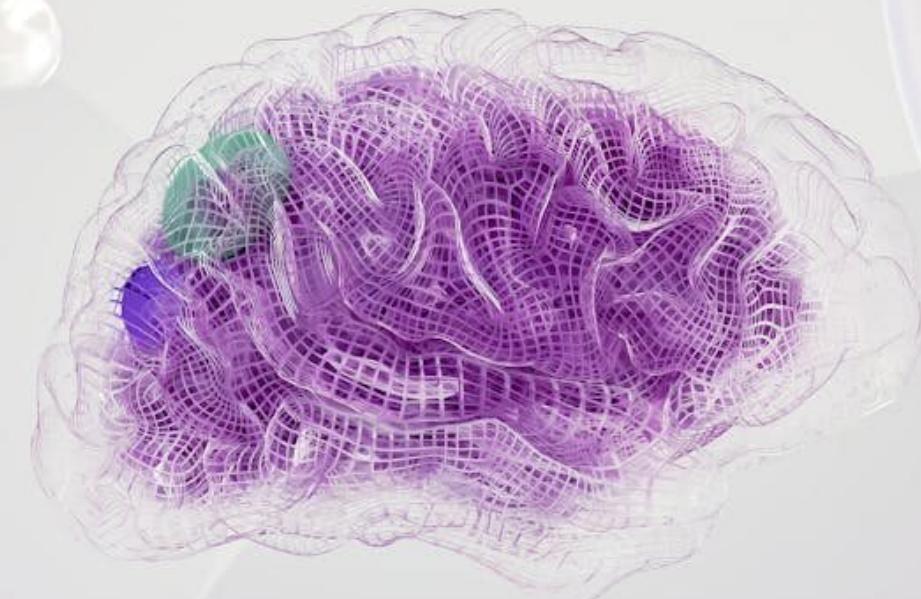


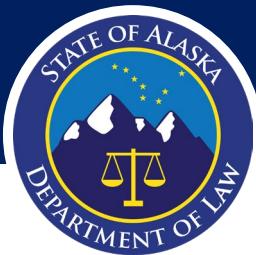
- Very successful recruitment cycle
- 124 applications from 36 states and 66 law schools<sup>1</sup>
- **21 intern positions filled**, months ahead of schedule<sup>2</sup>
- **200% increase** from 2025 in number of interns appointed
- **29 offers were made, 21 offers were accepted (72%)**
- **14 of 21 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

## **Cori Mills**

Deputy Attorney General

Civil Division

(907) 465-3600

[Cori.Mills@alaska.gov](mailto:Cori.Mills@alaska.gov)

## **Stephen J. Cox**

Attorney General

(907) 269-5100

[Attorney.General@alaska.gov](mailto:Attorney.General@alaska.gov)

## **Angie Kemp**

Deputy Attorney General

Criminal Division

(907) 269-5100

[Angie.Kemp@alaska.gov](mailto:Angie.Kemp@alaska.gov)