



# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

House Finance Subcommittee – 2/16/2026 12:00 pm

Criminal Division Overview; Changes and Challenges – Solicitor General Position, Trial Delay, Quality of Life Initiative

**Stephen Cox**  
Attorney General

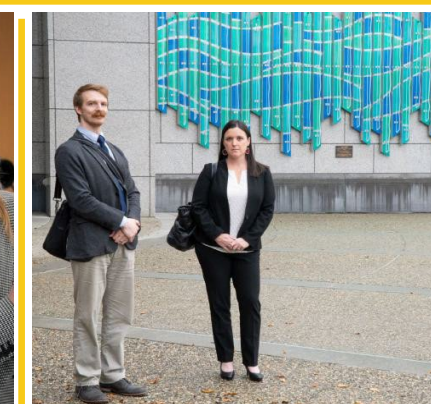
**Angie Kemp**  
Deputy Attorney General  
Criminal Division



# Criminal Division

## MISSION

The mission of the Criminal Division is to seek justice, promote public safety, and further 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



- 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,**  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Persons &  
Tribal Liaison

**Melissa Luce,**  
Competency

**Grace Lee,**  
Therapeutic Courts

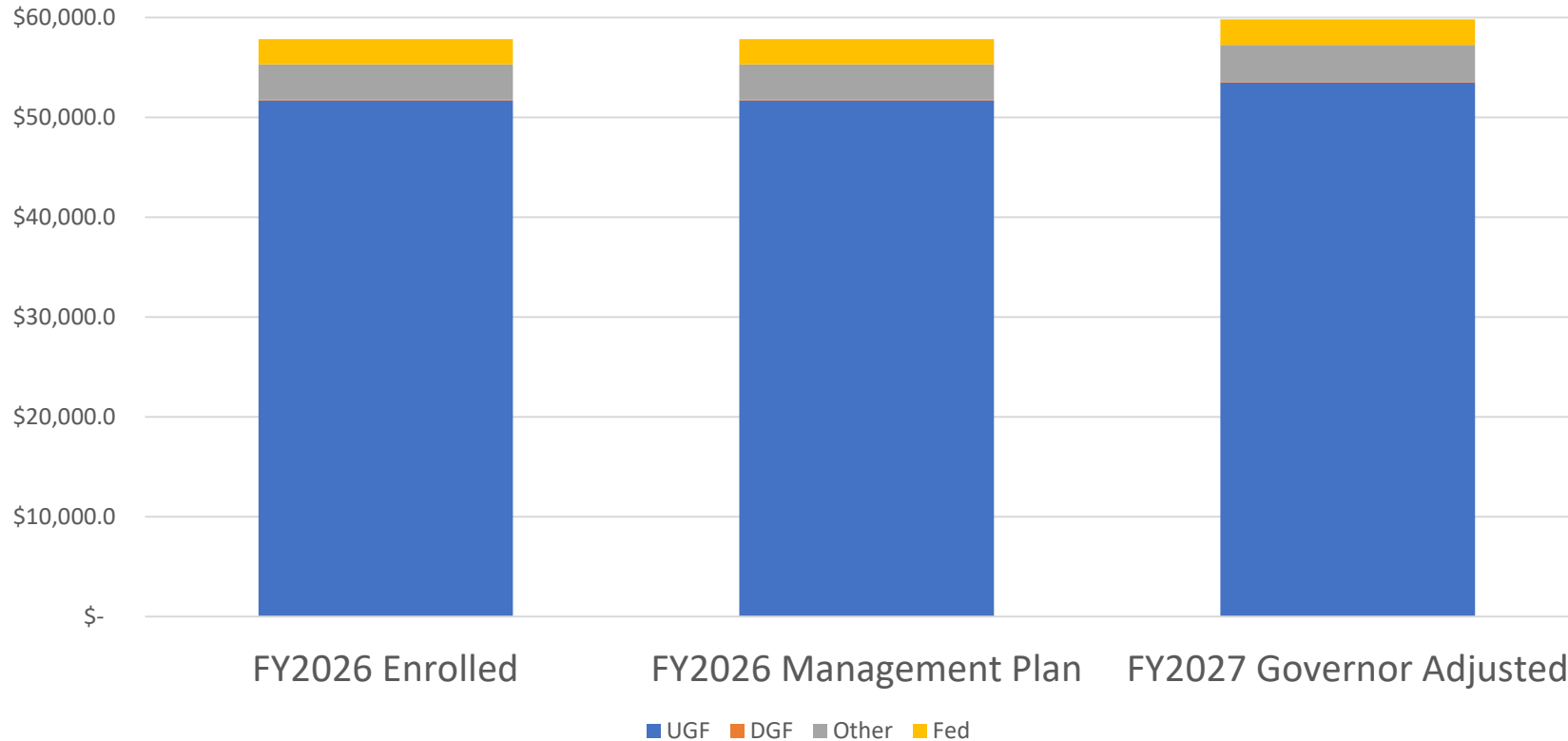
**Sarah Stanley,**  
Dept. of Public Safety

**Cate Pierson,**  
Dept. of Corrections



# Criminal Division: FY2026-FY2027 Budget

Note: \$ in thousands



Funding Source	FY2026 Enrolled	FY2026 Management Plan	FY2027 Governor Adjusted
Unrestricted General Fund	\$ 51,716.8	\$ 51,716.8	\$ 53,527.5
Designated General Fund	\$ 50.3	\$ 50.3	\$ 50.3
Other	\$ 3,560.3	\$ 3,560.3	\$ 3,683.2
Federal	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,568.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 57,835.4</b>	<b>\$ 57,835.4</b>	<b>\$ 59,829.7</b>



# Changes and Challenges

**Retention & Recruitment**

**Time to Disposition**

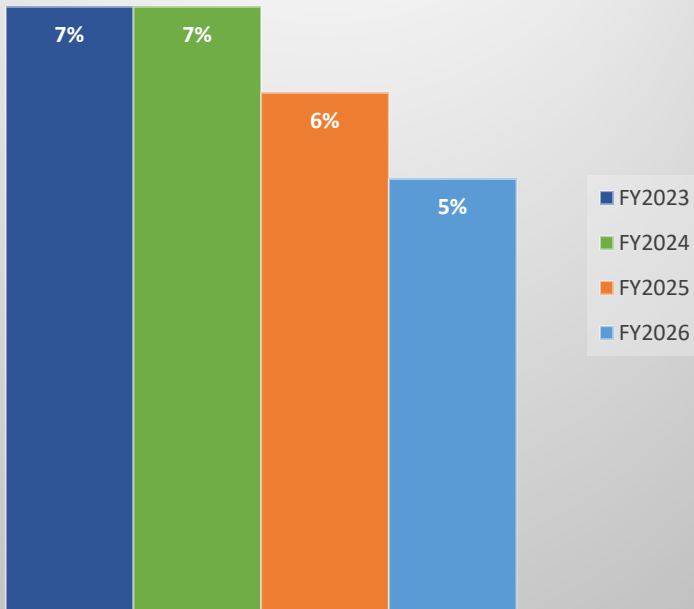
**Caseloads**

**Increased Case Costs**

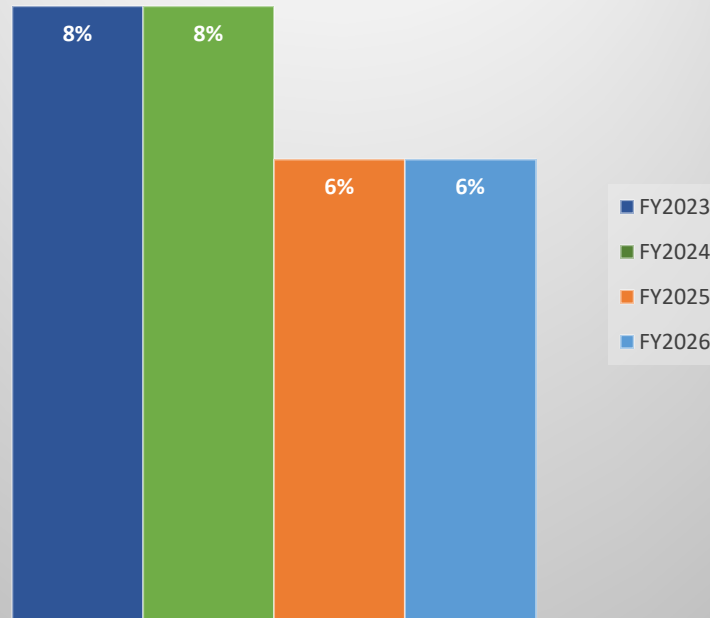


# Vacancy Rates

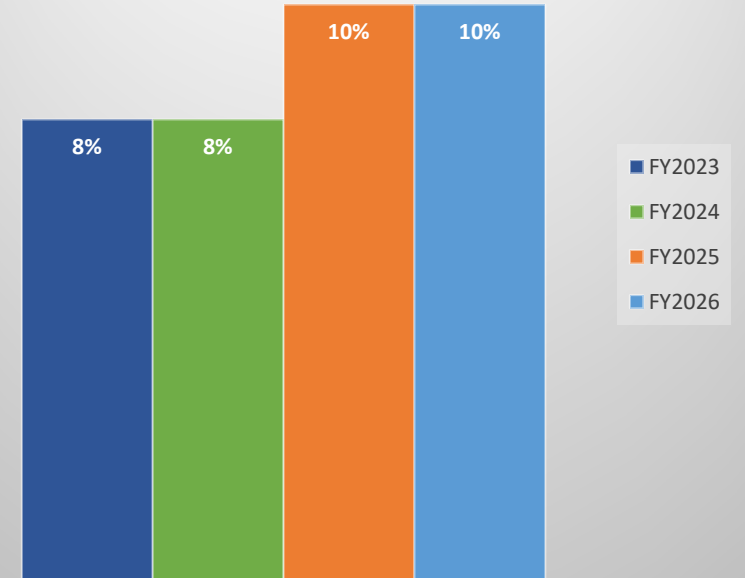
## Attorney Vacancy Rates



## Paralegal Vacancy Rates



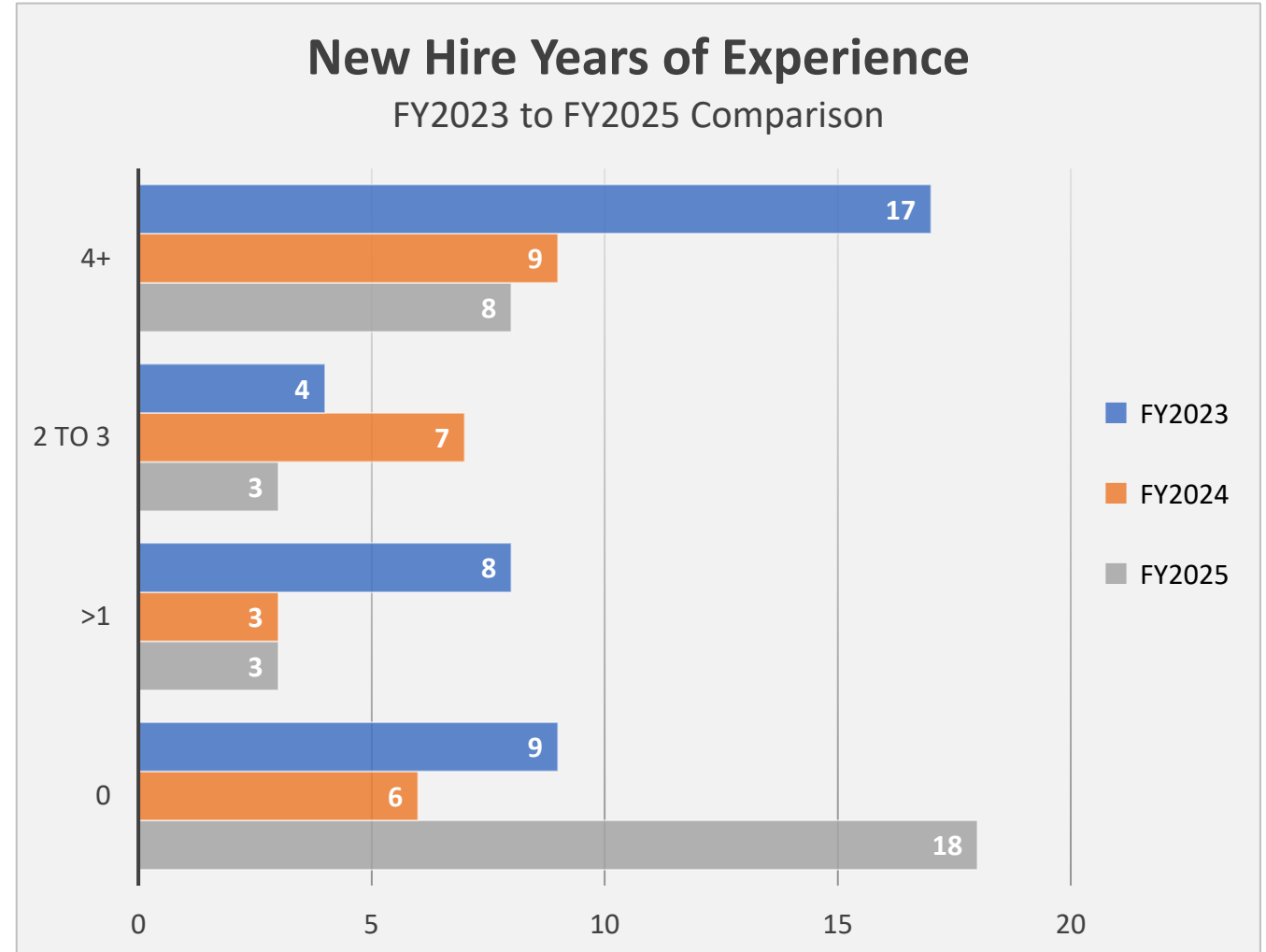
## Support Staff Vacancy Rates





# Recruitment Trends

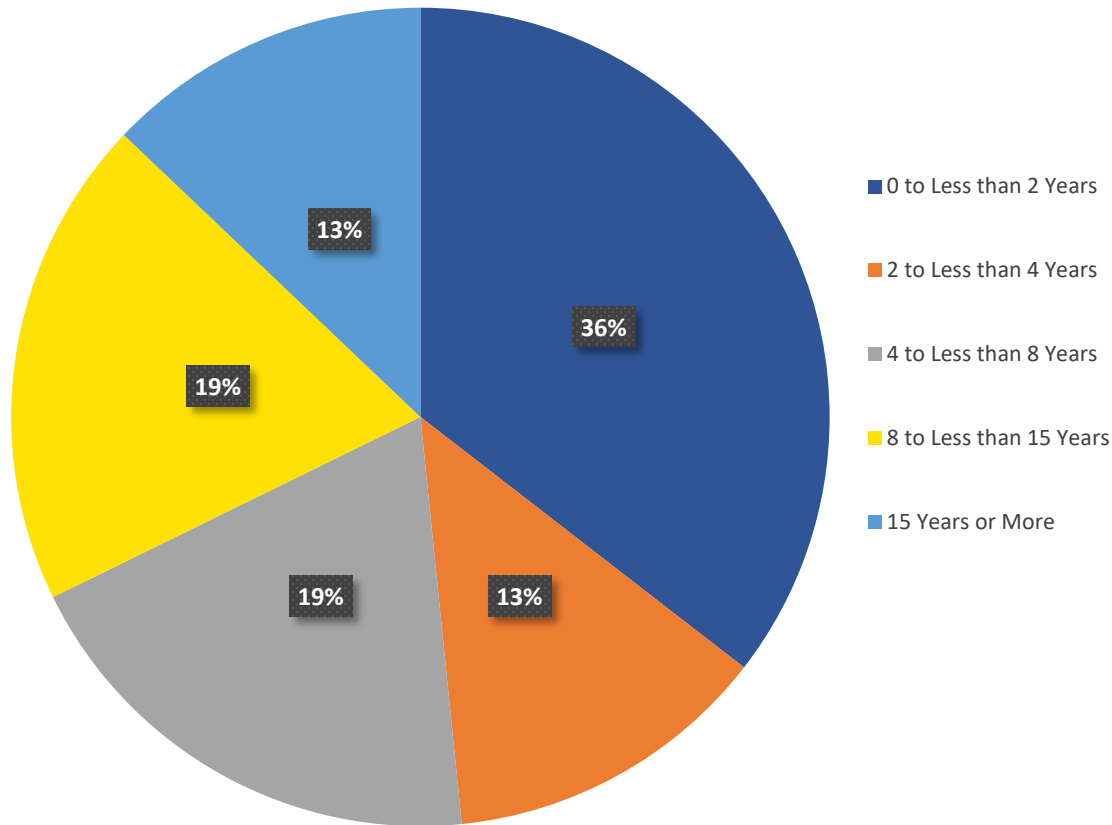
- **56%** of prosecutors hired in FY2025 had no licensed experience
- **25%** of prosecutors hired in FY2025 had 4+ years of licensed experience at time of hire





# Anchorage District Attorney's Office (DAO) Experience Level

Anchorage DAO Attorney Experience

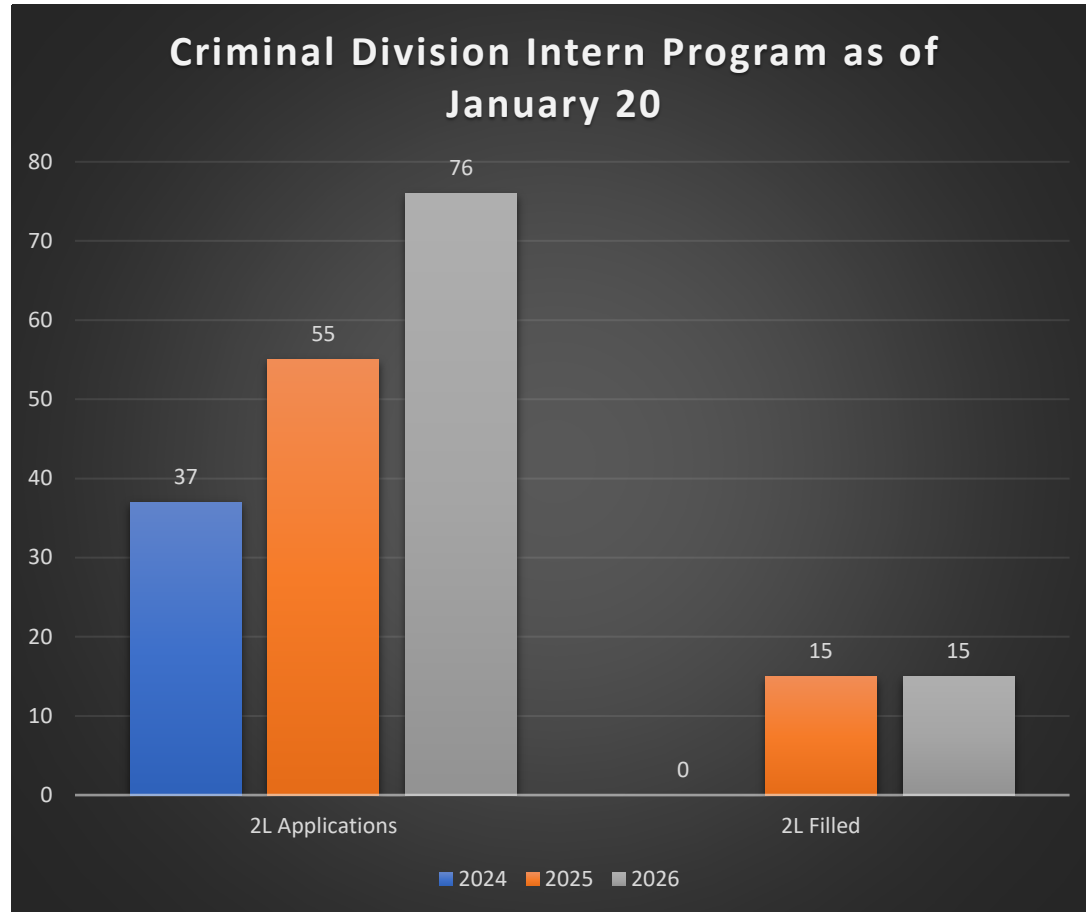


- Anchorage is the largest office
- 11 of the 37 prosecutors have limited to no experience as an attorney
- 287 Unclassified and class A felonies pending
- In FY2025, this office tried 11 murders and 14 sexual offenses

**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.



# Internships – Criminal Division



\*2L is defined as a law student who has completed two-thirds of their law school education.  
1L is defined as a law student who has completed one year of their law school education.

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**76 Applicants** 2Ls and 35 1L or Others

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

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Applicants from **35 states** and DC

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**15 of the 17** - 2L positions are filled

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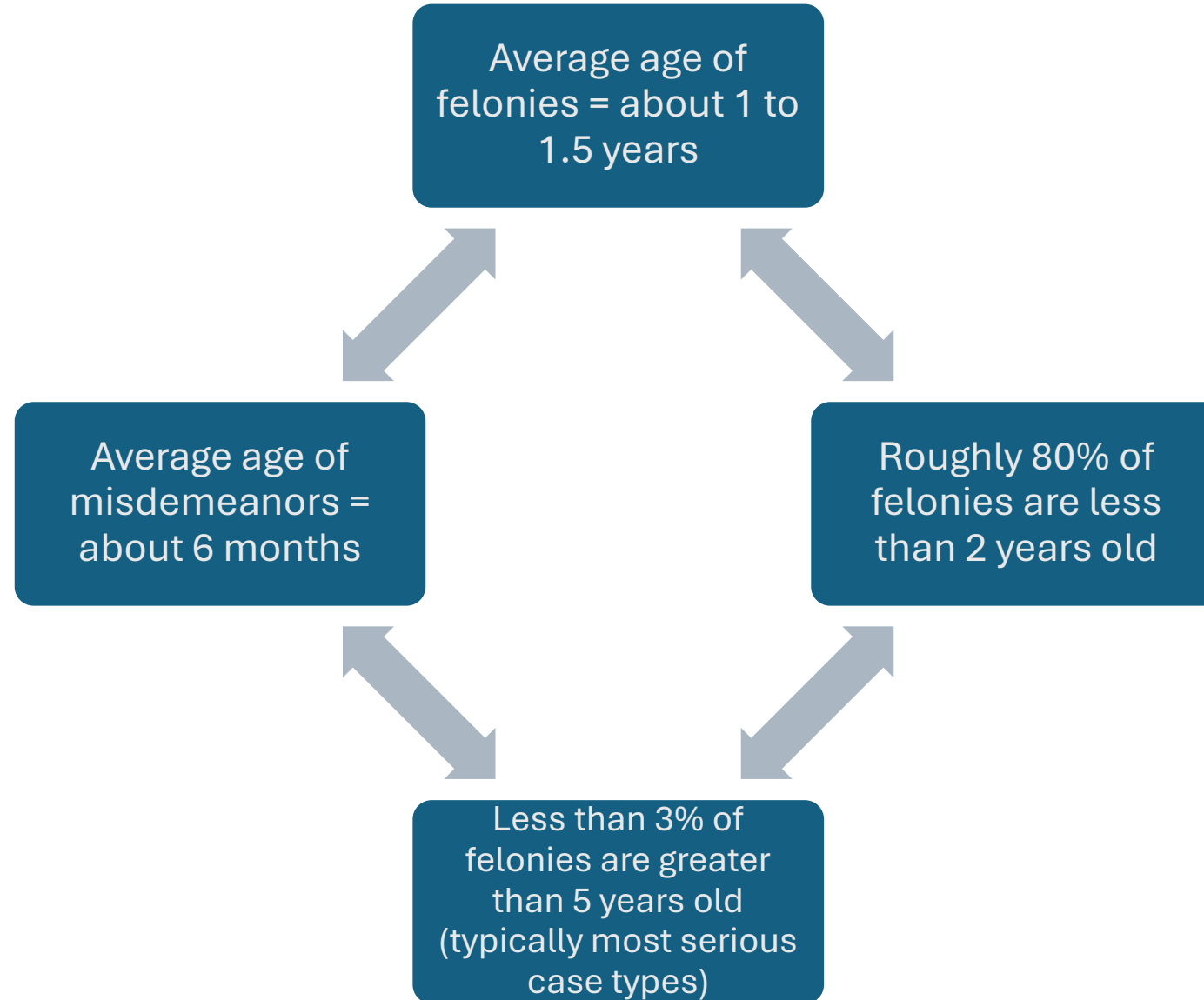
Working in **8 of our 13** offices statewide, including the rural communities of Bethel, Kodiak and Nome

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Broad cross-section of schools



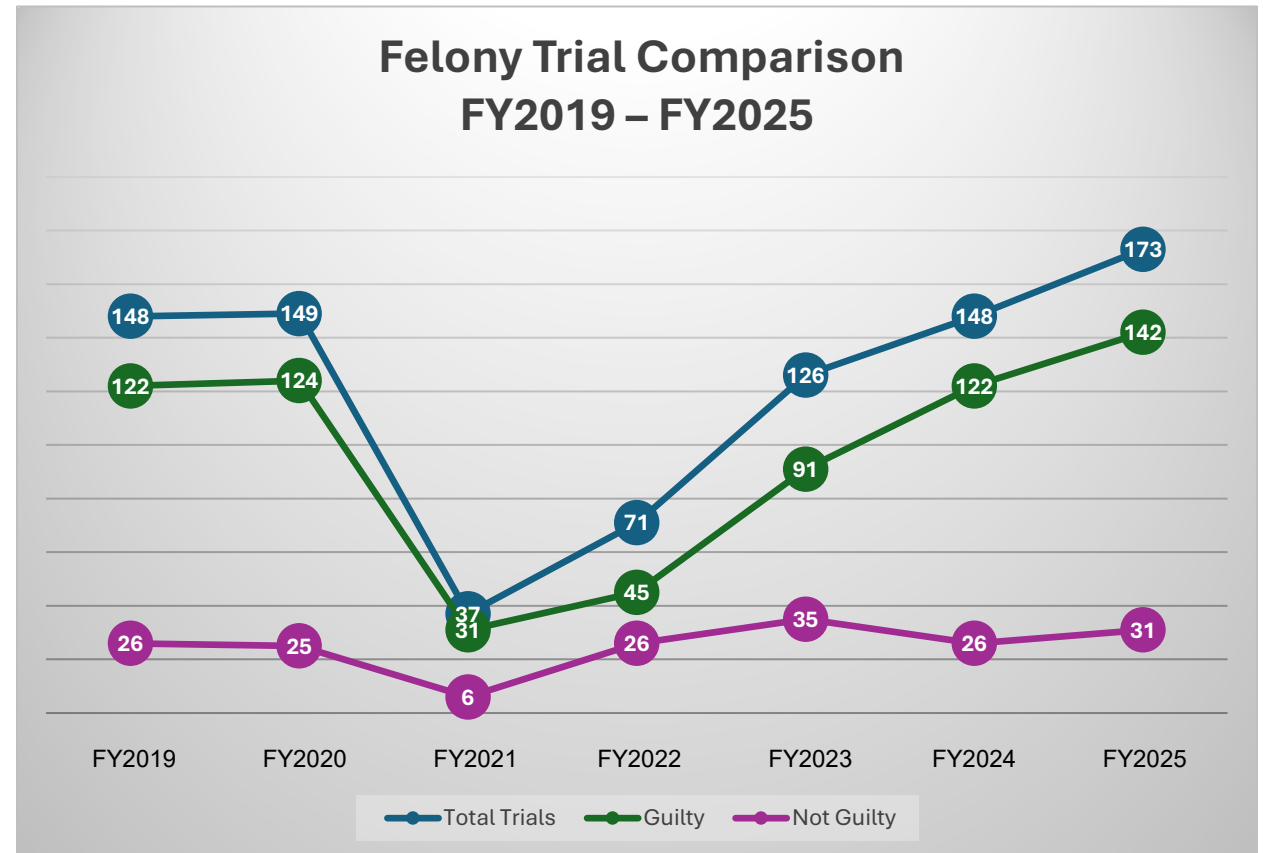
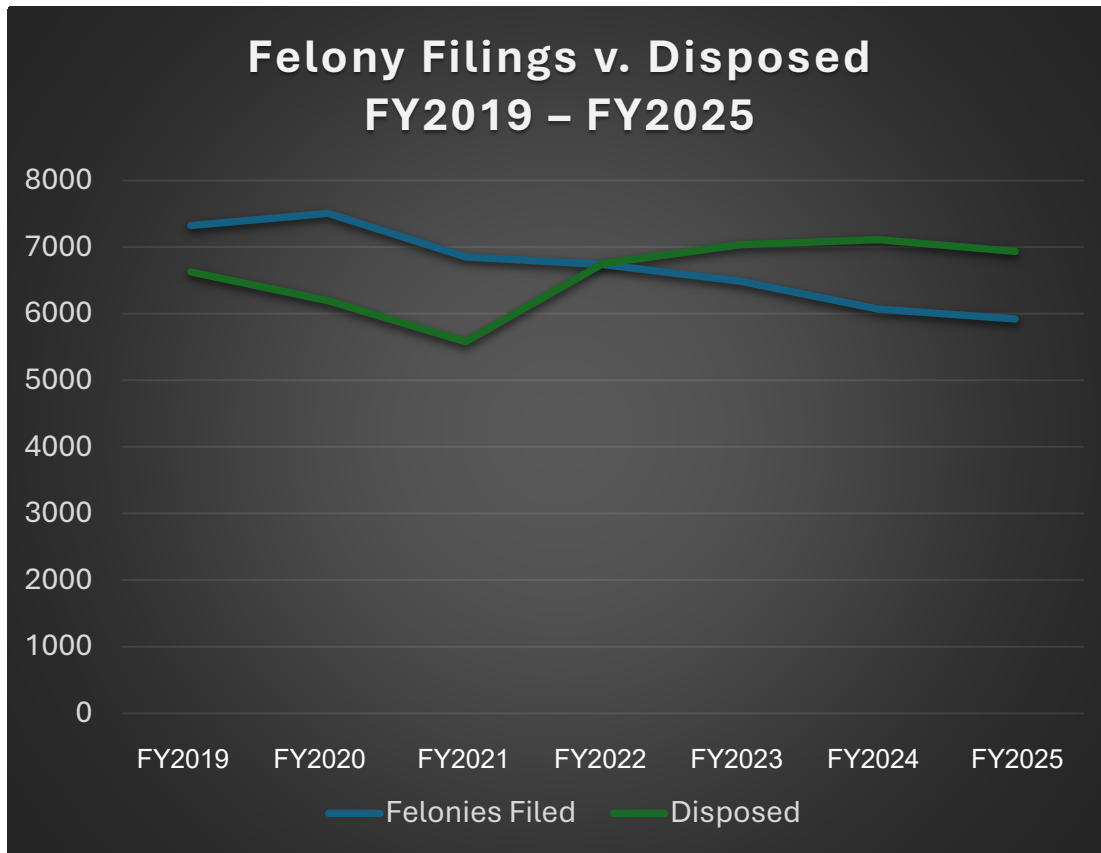
# Time to Disposition





# Felonies

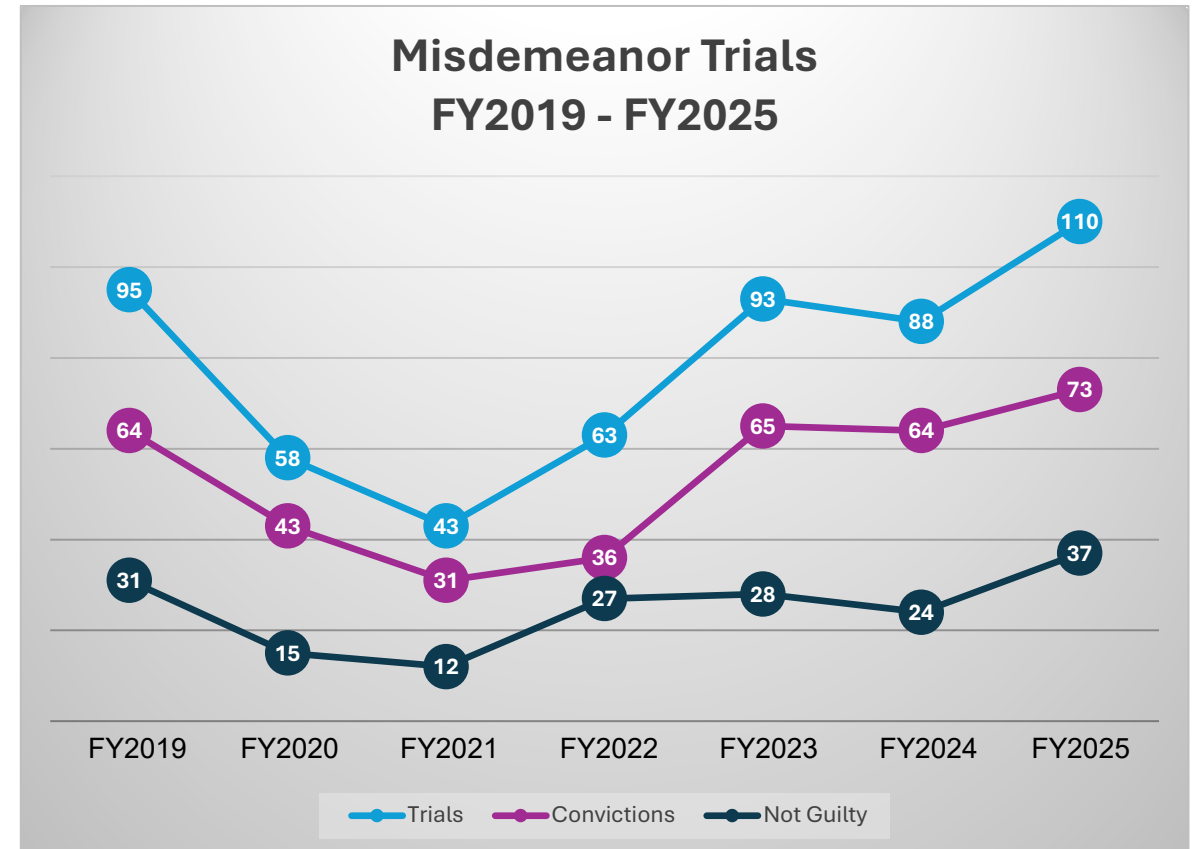
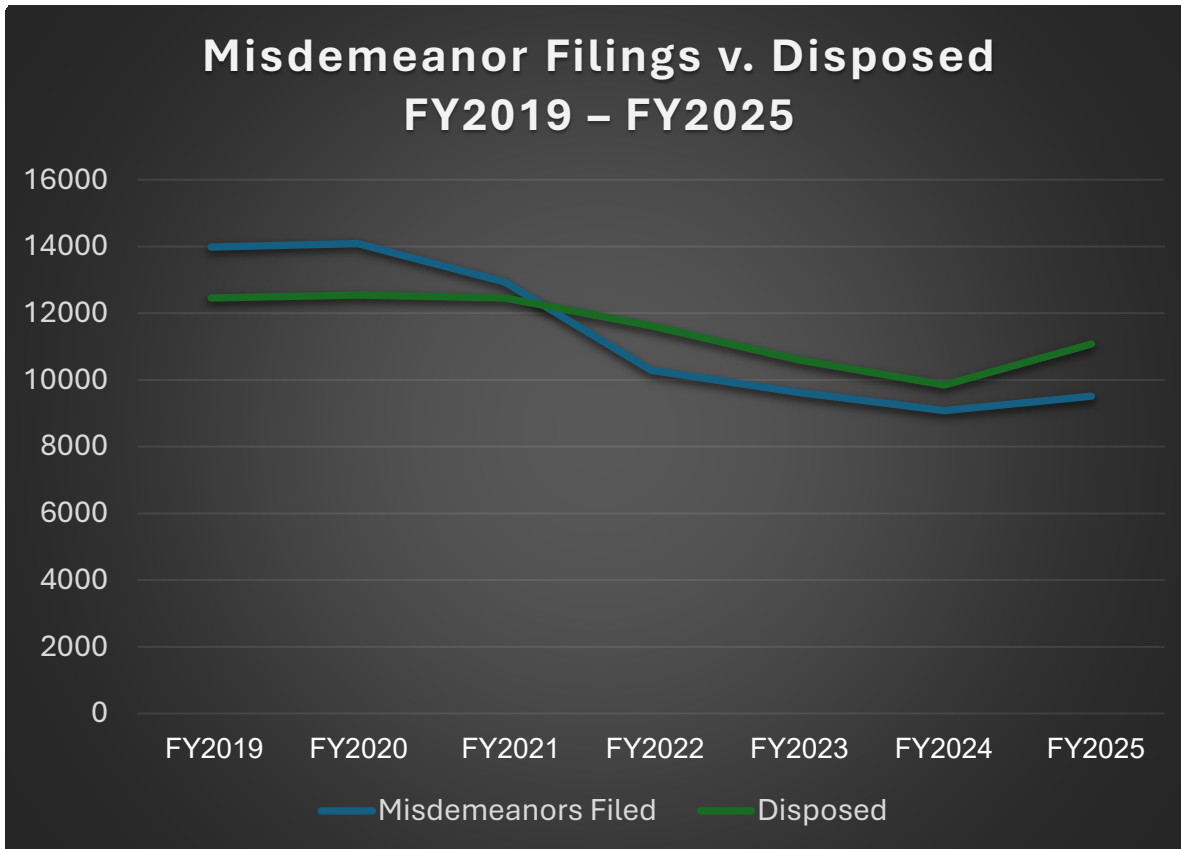
- More cases disposed than filed
- Felony filings continue to decrease
- FY2025 conviction rate 82%
- Felony trials continue to increase





# Misdemeanors

- More cases disposed than filed
- Number of misdemeanor trials up
- FY2025 conviction rate of 66%

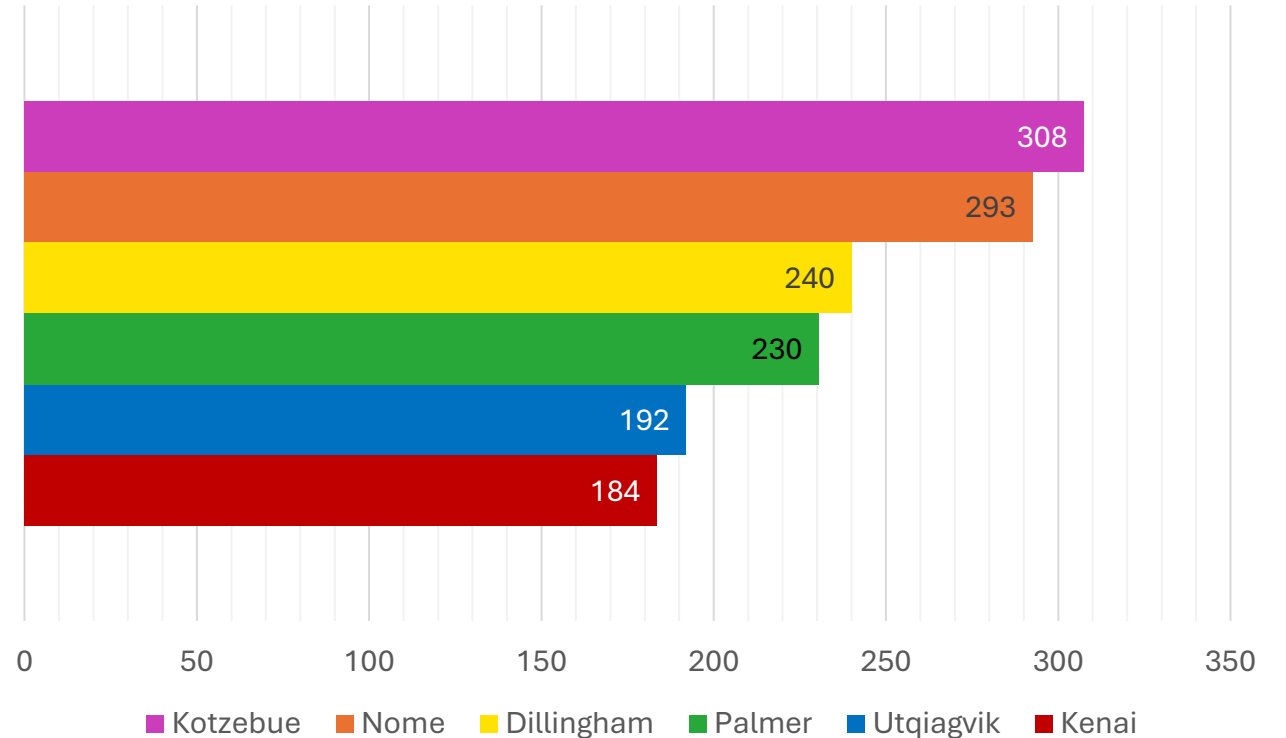




# Caseloads

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

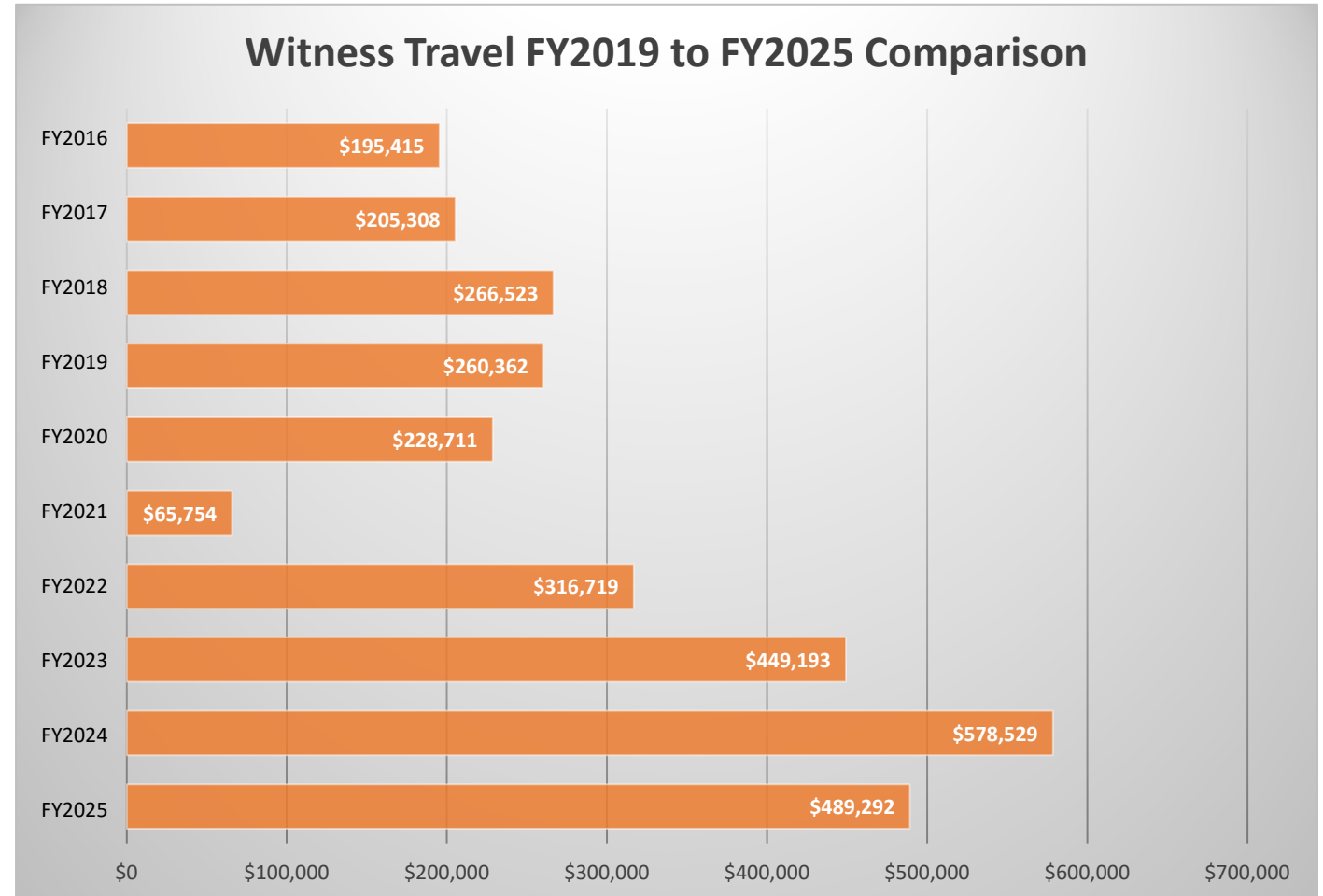
Offices with the Highest Caseloads Per Attorney (1.13.26)





# Rising Case Costs

- **Witness travel**
  - FY2019 average cost of felony **\$1,760**
  - FY2024 average cost of felony **\$3,909**
  - **122% increase**
- **Expert witness fees**
  - 194% increase from FY2016 to FY2025
- **Rising technology costs**
  - Explosion of digital evidence





# Quality-of-Life Initiative

## **Coordinate State and municipal efforts to enforce and reduce quality-of-life crimes.**

The initiative has two prongs: (1) combating retail theft; and (2) addressing conduct impacting use and enjoyment of public spaces.

- Maximize prosecution efficiency through cross-designation and targeted training
- Strengthen operational partnerships with law enforcement and retail stakeholders
- Deploy both criminal and civil enforcement tools to address chronic offenders and locations
- Prioritize repeat offenders driving the greatest quality-of-life harm
- Restore public spaces through targeted enforcement and abatement actions



# Questions

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Attorney General

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