

Department Name	Alternate Public Defender
Account(s)	1171

Department Function
<p>The Office of the Alternate Public Defender is dedicated to providing equal access to compassionate, high-quality legal representation for individuals who cannot afford an attorney. We work to eliminate systemic inequities in the criminal legal system, address the lasting consequences of system involvement, and protect the rights and dignity of our clients. Guided by the highest ethical and professional standards, we advocate for adults and juveniles facing criminal charges, individuals appealing convictions, parents at risk of losing custody in dependency cases, and those seeking to clear past convictions.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<p>Our office began the year with several trials, some of which resulted in positive outcomes—reflecting the dedication and skill of our legal team. While we remain focused on implementing a more equitable court assignment plan and deepening our commitment to client-centered representation, recruitment has been a significant challenge. Attracting attorneys with a passion for public defense remains a top priority, and our search for experienced and mission-driven legal professionals is ongoing.</p> <p>We have also implemented the use of Axon for discovery, which has significantly improved our ability to receive timely and organized discovery materials from the District Attorney’s Office. This technological advancement has enhanced our efficiency in case preparation and further supports our commitment to providing high-quality legal representation.</p>

Next Year Projects
<p>In response to the growing caseload and increased volume of discovery, the Office of Indigent Legal Services has provided funding for two additional attorneys and a criminal court caseworker to support our criminal defense team. This critical support will help us maintain the quality and responsiveness of our legal representation.</p> <p>We remain committed to strengthening our Family Court practice and will continue to seek additional funding and resources to enhance the quality of representation for families navigating these complex and sensitive matters.</p>

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/APD
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