

JUSTICE AT NINETY



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

Contact Information and Resources

Main Office

555 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Directory: 415-553-1671
Intern and Volunteer Program: 415-553-9630
Website: sfpublicdefender.org

Juvenile Division

375 Woodside Avenue, Room 118
San Francisco, CA 94127
Front Desk: 415-753-7601

Bayview MAGIC

Phone: 415-558-2428
Email: community@bayviewmagic.org
Website: bayviewmagic.org

Mo' MAGIC

Phone: 415-563-5207
Email: info@momagic.org
Website: momagic.org

Clean Slate Program

Phone: 415-553-9337
Email: cleanslate@sfgov.org

Hours and Locations:

Arriba Juntos Office

1850 Mission Street
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month
10:30am-12:30pm
Se habla Español.

Main Office

555 7th Street
Every Tuesday, 9am-11am

Up From Darkness Office

1075 Fillmore Street
1st Wednesday of the Month
3pm-5pm

The Village Community Center

1099 Sunnydale Avenue
4th Wednesday of the Month
3pm-5pm

Southeast Community Center

1800 Oakdale Avenue
1st & 3rd Thursday of the Month 9am-11am

Message from the Public Defender

When the Public Defender's office was first created in 1921, the office had one attorney – the Public Defender, Frank Egan, who had just been appointed. In his first annual report, Egan wrote that he had no deputies, office or support staff, and found it “very difficult to carry out” his duties.

A look at this year's annual report – a report that chronicles this Office's 90th year – today's Public Defender's office resembles nothing like the office that Frank Egan described in 1921. We are an office of over ninety attorneys and eighty support staff – one of the most respected and accomplished public defender offices in the country.

In our ninety-year history, The City has had seven elected Public Defenders, each one building on the work of their predecessor to create a more effective and professional office. We went from cramped quarters at the Hall of Justice to our current location in 1986. In 2003, paralegals and social workers joined our team to provide clients in need with more resources. In 2007, we received the American Bar Association's top award for the best public law office in the nation. Our Clean Slate Program, a record expungement service that we pioneered, celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2009.

Our advances have meant for success outside and inside the courtroom. This year, we uncovered a wide-spread police misconduct scandal in several Tenderloin hotels. Undercover narcotics officers illegally searched rooms, committed perjury and in some cases, stole property from the poorest San Franciscans. In court, our Misdemeanor team tried over 140 jury trials this year alone. Our reentry council became the model for the court's Realignment Program.

Looking back on our history, it is clear that these accomplishments were by no means guaranteed. It was a long road between 1921 and 2011 and this annual reports serves to honor not just the clients we've represented over our ninety-year history, but the work of those pioneering defenders and supporters who defined what we've become. We thank you for being a part of our office's legacy and for keeping the promise of justice alive.

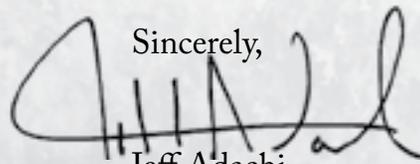
Sincerely,

Jeff Adachi



photo: Luke Thomas



JANUARY

Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first woman lawyer in the State of California, founded the Public Defender System. After successfully challenging the law excluding women from the legal profession and from law schools, Foltz became a skilled trial lawyer. In 1892, Foltz introduced the Foltz Defender Bill. 29 years later, the California passed the Foltz Bill and the SF Public Defender's Office was created the same year.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Fred Korematsu Day	31				



FEBRUARY

San Francisco's first Public Defender was Frank Egan, a former police officer who was appointed in 1921. Under the City Charter, San Francisco became the first and only city in the state to elect its Public Defender by popular vote. When Egan was first appointed, he was the only lawyer in the office. However, Egan advocated for more staff and soon grew the office to over a dozen lawyers and a few support staff.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			



MARCH

Shock waves shook the City when Public Defender Frank Egan was arrested for murder. When a close friend and former client of Egan was found dead, suspicion focused on Egan, who had managed her financial affairs. After a lengthy trial Egan and another man were found guilty of murder, and Egan was sentenced to life in prison.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



APRIL

Following Frank J. Egan's removal from office, Gerald J. Kenny was appointed Public Defender in 1932 and subsequently elected. In 1935 the Civil Grand Jury found that "The office of Public Defender, under the direction of Mr. Gerald J. Kenny, has been handled in a most efficient manner." Kenny served as Public Defender for two decades, until 1954.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



MAY

Over the years, the SF Public Defender's office has handled many high profile cases, including the 1931 trial known as the "Spokane bomb case." Henry Ilse, a fireman and Thomas Boyle, an accountant were charged with attempting to dynamite a publishing company. Public Defender Gerald Kenny represented Boyle (pictured with Kenny, above), who was convicted for his role in the bombing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Harvey Milk Day	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		



JUNE

Although reentry and “realignment” programs for former prisoners have only been recently implemented statewide, San Francisco has a long tradition of helping former prisoners turn their lives around. In 1934, Public Defender Gerald Kenny met with a group of “non-secular organizations to assist men and women who have been penalized for first and second offenses against society.” Today, the Public Defender’s office has won nationwide recognition and awards for its Clean Slate and prison reentry programs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Felony

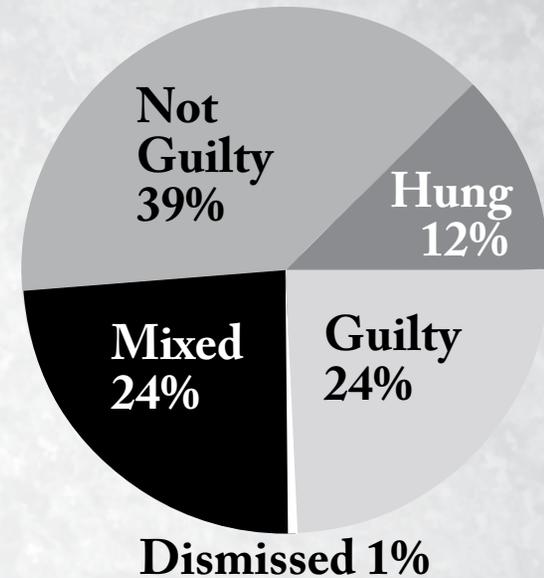
- 91 Cases dismissed due to police misconduct
- 62 Jury trials
- 71% Success rate*
- 8 Homicide trials
- 50% Homicide trials won

Misdemeanor

- 145 Jury trials
- 78% Success rate*
- 21 Domestic violence trials
- 9 Domestic violence trials won*
- 14 Participants in Volunteer Attorney Program
- 38 Trials by volunteer attorneys

* acquittal/mixed verdict/hung/
dismissed at trial

Combined Felony and Misdemeanor Trial Results



Richard Bui

Behavioral Health Court

40 Number of graduates

Research Unit

- 35 Memorandum of Law
- 83 Motions
- 135 Writs and appeal
- 25 Office trainings and seminars
- 850 Number of files reviewed
- 90 Number of clients tracked down



Richard Bui

Mental Health Unit

- 2839 Total cases handled
 - 4 Criminal dismissals for conserved clients
 - 4 Jury trials
 - 3 Jury trials won

Training Unit

- 50 In-house workshop and lectures
- 53 Case conferences
- 110 New attorney training sessions

Volunteer Intern Program

- 285 Participants in VIP

Investigation Unit

- 2921 Written requests
- 5000 Database searches
 - 1:6 Ratio of investigators to attorneys
- 2880 Interviews
- 3600 Subpoenas

Paralegal Unit

- 2 Number of new hires
- 2500 Subpoenas created and sent out
- 100 Clients clothed for trial
- 500 Blowups printed



Christine Jegan

Juvenile

- 0 Youth sent to state incarceration facilities or transferred to adult court
- 194 Youth diverted from formal juvenile probation
75% success rate
- 63 Social work recommendations adopted by the juvenile courts
- 98% Success rate in preventing school expulsion and securing services for special education students
- 382 Interviews conducted by investigators
- 209 Subpoenas served by investigators
- 32 Juvenile delinquency cases dismissed due to investigations



Richard Bui

Specialty Courts & Reentry

- 306 Assessments by Social Worker and referred to residential and outpatient program, shelter and other services
- 246 Of those assessed, success rate

Drug Court

- 406 Total cases
- 168 Number of graduates

Proposition 36

- 57 Total cases
- 29 Number of graduates

Clean Slate

- 1194 Motions filed
- 94% Motions successfully granted
- 969 Convictions expunged
 - 62 Arrest records sealed and destroyed
 - 81 Felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor
 - 10 Certificate of Rehabilitation after serving state prison sentence
- 3800 Individuals served by Clean Slate

Clerical Unit

550 Files pulled
110,000 Front desk telephone calls
22,334 New criminal files created

Word Processing

667 Rush pages completed
113 Requests received
5331 Pages of transcripts completed

Information and Technology Unit

31 New laptops available to trial attorneys
7092 Wiki articles
190 PowerPoints used in trials



BMAGIC and Mo'MAGIC

2096 Backpacks given away
2841 Total youth served
690 Participants in Literacy is Freedom event
55 Youth attending winter ball
45 Partners in Bayview-Hunters Point



JULY

Molly Minudri, the office's first female Public Defender, is shown representing Leslie "Mad Dog" Irvin, who had escaped from an Indiana prison and was later apprehended in San Francisco. Charged with six murders, Irvin's case was heard in the US Supreme Court, where it set the legal standard for prejudicial pretrial publicity.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				



AUGUST

Edward Mancuso was appointed in 1954 by Mayor Elmer Robinson to complete Gerald Kenney's term and the Public Defender began to represent indigent people accused of misdemeanors as well as those accused of felonies. Mancuso appointed the office's first African-American female attorney, Estella Dooley, in 1965. Dooley later established the Mental Health unit of the office. Today, the Public Defender's office is one of the most diverse law offices in the country, with over 55% women and 50% minorities and LGBT attorneys and staff.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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SEPTEMBER

Upon the retirement of Edward Mancuso in 1974, Robert Nicco, who had been Chief Attorney under Mancuso was appointed Public Defender and then elected in November of 1974. Under Robert Nicco's tenure, the office's diversity was broadened, including the hiring Fred Smith, an African-American man who served as the office's Chief Attorney from 1974-1979, and Manoucher Farzan, who was the first Persian-American attorney in the United States.

Sunday

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Saturday

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Labor Day

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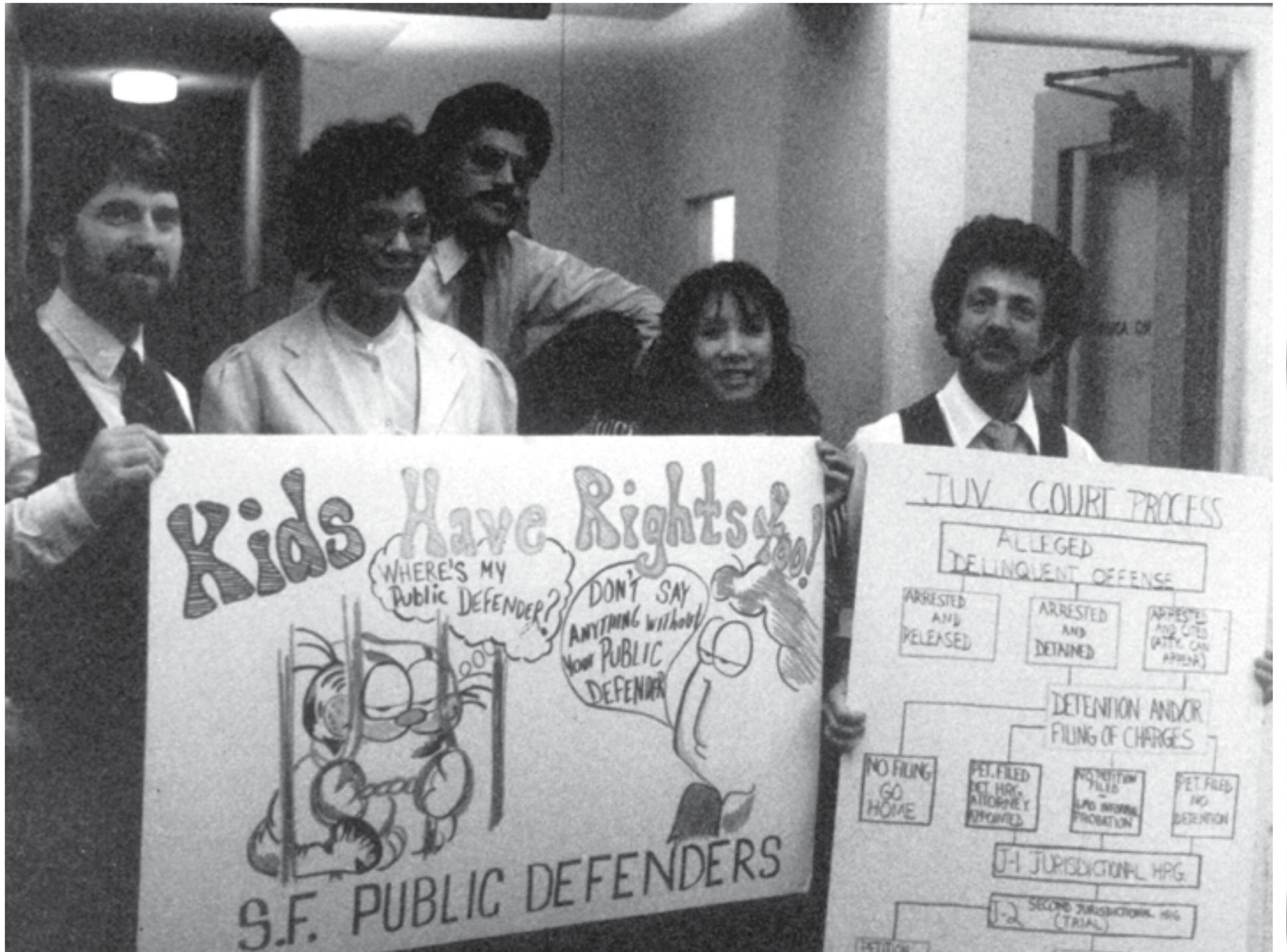


photo: Public Defender Files

OCTOBER

In the late 1970's and early 80s, the Public Defender's juvenile unit became known as one of the most effective models for providing legal representation to youth. Juvenile court became the battlefield for expanding constitutional protections afforded to adults to juveniles. Today, the juvenile unit provides holistic representation to over 1,000 youth each year, and is equipped with social workers, youth advocates, educational specialists and top-notch attorneys.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Indigenous People's Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			



photo: Public Defender Files

NOVEMBER

When Robert Nicco chose not to run for Public Defender, Jeff Brown was elected Public Defender in 1978. Under Jeff Brown's tenure as Public Defender, after decades of occupying cramped space in the Hall of Justice, the Office moved across Bryant Street into its current location at 555 7th Street in 1987. Brown also worked to increase staffing to handle the office's growing caseload, which had grown to 20,000 clients each year. When Brown resigned from office in 2001, Kimiko Burton was appointed Public Defender and served until Jeff Adachi was elected in 2002.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



photo: Richard Bui

DECEMBER

San Francisco Public Defender attorneys and support staff gather in front of the Public Defender's Office. Over the past 90 years, the office has grown from a single lawyer to a full-service law office which has been recognized as one of the country's best public service law firms.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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San Francisco Public Defender
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San Francisco, California 94103
sfpublicdefender.org

