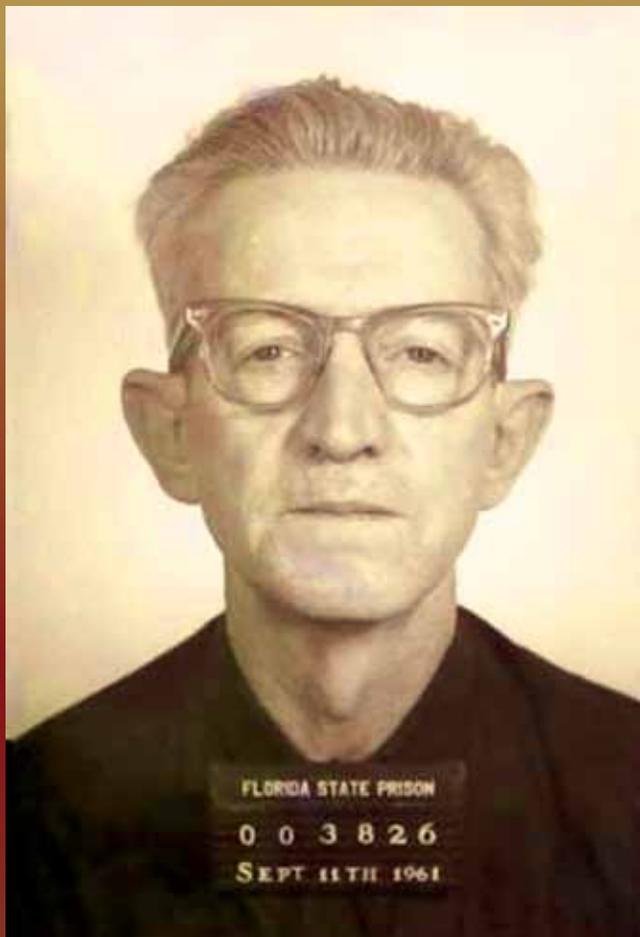


Gideon turns 50: Celebrating free defense for all



DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS
CORRESPONDENCE REGULATIONS

MAIL WILL NOT BE DELIVERED WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM WITH THESE RULES

No. 1 -- Only 2 letters each week, not to exceed 2 sheets letter-size 8 1/2 x 11" and written on one side only, and if ruled paper, do not write between lines. Two complete names must be signed at the close of your letter. Clippings, stamps, letters from other people, adultery or cash must not be enclosed in your letters.

No. 2 -- All letters must be addressed in the complete prison name of the inmate. Cell number, where applicable, and prison number must be placed in lower left corner of envelope, with your complete name and address in the upper left corner.

No. 3 -- Do not send any packages without a Package Permit. Unauthorized packages will be destroyed.

No. 4 -- Letters must be written in English only.

No. 5 -- Books, magazines, pamphlets, and newspapers of reputable character will be delivered only if mailed direct from the publisher.

No. 6 -- Money must be sent in the form of Postal Money Orders only. In the inmate's complete prison name and prison number.

INSTITUTION _____ CELL NUMBER _____

NAME _____ NUMBER _____

*In The Supreme Court of The United States
Washington D.C.
Clarence Earl Gideon
Petitioner* } *Petition for a writ
of Certiorari directed
to The Supreme Court
State of Florida.*

vs. } *H.G. Cochran, Jr, as
Director, Division
of Corrections State
of Florida.*

No. 790 Misc.
OCT. TERM 1961
U. S. Supreme Court

*To: The Honorable Earl Warren, Chief
Justice of the United States*

*Comes now the petitioner, Clarence
Earl Gideon, a citizen of The United States
of America, in proper person, and appearing
as his own counsel. Who petitions this
Honorable Court for a Writ of Certiorari
directed to The Supreme Court of The State
of Florida, To review the order and judg-
ment of the court below denying the
petitioner a writ of Habeas Corpus.*

*Petitioner submits that The Supreme
Court of the United States has the authority
and jurisdiction to review the final judg-
ment of The Supreme Court of The State
of Florida the highest court of The State.
Under sec. 344(B) Title 28 U.S.C.A. and
Because the "Due process clause" of the*

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right

to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

San Francisco Public Defender

2012 Annual Report and 2013 Calendar

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: 415-567-0400
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

Mo' MAGIC

1290 Fillmore Street (Westbay Conference Center)
1st Wednesday of the Month
3pm-5pm

The Village Community Center

1099 Sunnyside 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

The COURT: I am sorry, but I will have to deny your request to appoint Counsel to defend you in this case.

The DEFENDANT: The United States Supreme Court says I am entitled to be represented by Counsel.

This exchange, between prisoner Clarence Earl Gideon and a Florida judge, would lead to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a poor person accused of a crime must be provided a lawyer. Although the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed the accused “the Assistance of Counsel for his defence,” free legal representation for the indigent was routinely denied in many states.

Gideon was arrested in 1961 for allegedly burglarizing a Florida pool hall. Because he could not afford an attorney, he was forced to represent himself at trial, despite having only an eighth grade education. He was convicted.

From his jail cell, Gideon scrawled out a petition to the nation’s high court. The Supreme Court voted to hear his appeal, and ruled in his favor on March 18, 1963. Although some states had public defender offices for many years — thanks to the efforts of California’s first woman attorney, Clara Foltz — the Gideon decision required that all states provide attorneys to those accused of crimes. Today, there are more than 15,000 public defenders nationwide and thousands of private attorneys who provide these critical services.

Last year, our office celebrated its 90th Anniversary of providing justice to San Franciscans. In this annual report and calendar, we proudly share our achievements throughout 2012 including:

- Winning not guilty verdicts or hung juries in approximately half of 258 cases taken to trial.



Photo: Robert Fujioka

- Helping clear the criminal records of approximately 1,500 people through our Clean Slate program and linking hundreds of clients to treatment and services through our social workers and collaborative courts.
- Implementing the state realignment initiative, which transferred supervision of low level state prisoners to counties and provided reentry services to hundreds of returning prisoners to reduce crime.
- Sponsoring the 10th annual televised Justice Summit, educating the public on gang prevention, drug law reform, and neuroscience.
- Working to stop the practice of police improperly using pass keys to gain entry into hotel rooms without search warrants.
- Distributing more than 4,300 backpacks and school supplies to children and providing literacy programs and agency support through our community-based MAGIC programs.

In December, our office was honored to receive the “Reggie” Award, given by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. This award celebrates the outstanding achievements made by a public defender or legal aid lawyer who has done exemplary work in representing the poor.

In 2013, we will celebrate Gideon’s 50th anniversary by hosting events that raise public awareness of the right to counsel, including a special Justice Summit on March 19 and an evening with anti-death penalty advocate Sister Helen Prejean on May 9. We hope you can join us in celebrating the spirit of justice for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeff Adachi". The signature is stylized and written over a faint background of cursive handwriting.

Jeff Adachi
San Francisco Public Defender



**Advocate. Because you
(yes, you) are entitled
to an attorney.**

You have the right to an attorney if you are unable to afford one. Public defenders work vigorously to achieve the best legal results for their clients.

JANUARY 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1 2

New Year's Day

6 7 8 9

First Public Defender's Office Opens in Los Angeles, 1914

13 14 15 16

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

27 28 29 30

Fred Korematsu Day

Misdemeanor Statistics

199 Jury trials
42% Wins
27% Split decision
31% Guilty
630 Motions filed

Thursday Friday Saturday

3 4 5

10 11 12

17 18 19

24 25 26

31

Volunteer Attorney Program

Number of VAPs 20
Trials handled by VAPs 54
Motions by VAPs 133
Dispositions by VAPs 235

Deputy Public Defender Kim Lutes-Koths of the Misdemeanor Unit (right) and Paralegal Tamar Eggers (left) react to a victory in court with client Jake.

Truth sleuth



Investigators at the Public Defender's Office examine the veracity of police reports and witness statements to ensure the whole story is told in court.

FEBRUARY 2013

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INSTITUTION _____ CELL NUMBER _____

NAME _____ NUMBER _____

3 4 5 6

In The Supreme Court of The United States
Washington D.C.

Clarence Earl Gideon
Petitioner

vs.
H.G. Cochran
Director, Division of Corrections
of the State of Florida

10 11 12 13

No. 790
CST. TERM 1961

17 18 19 20

To: The Honorable Earl Warren
Justice of the United States Supreme Court
Come 5 new the at. Dine; Clarence Earl Gideon, a citizen of the United States of America in proper person appears as his own counsel and petitioner before your Honorable Court to file a petition directed to the Supreme Court of the State of Florida, to review the order and judgment of the court below denying the petitioner a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Presidents Day

24 25 26 27

Petitioner

Court of the United States and jurisdiction of the State of Florida. The Honorable Earl Warren, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, because the "Due process clause" of the

Investigation Statistics

- 2,800 Number of investigation requests received by the unit in 2012
- 3,250 Number of subpoenas served in 2012
- 6:1 Attorney to investigator ratio

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INSTITUTION _____ CELL NUMBER _____

NAME _____ NUMBER _____

7 8 9

fifteenth amendment of the constitution and the fifth and sixth articles of the Bill of Rights has been violated. Furthermore, the decision of the Court.

Further, the decision of the Court. Further, the decision of the Court.

14 15 16

Further, the decision of the Court. Further, the decision of the Court.

21 22 23

ATTACHED hereto, and made a part of this petition is a copy of the petition for writ of Habeas Corpus as presented to the Florida Supreme Court. Petitioner asks this Honorable Court to consider the same arguments and authorities cited in the petition for writ of Habeas Corpus filed in the Florida Supreme Court. In consideration of this petition for a writ of Certiorari.

28

The Supreme Court of Florida did not write any opinion, order of that Court denying petition for writ of Habeas Corpus dated October 31, 1961, are attached hereto and made a part of this petition.

Petitioner contends that he has been deprived of due process of law because the lower state court has decided a

Investigator Jennifer Jennings interviews a possible witness in the Tenderloin.

Fighting an unfair criminal charge is anything but a fair fight. Prosecutors have the full power of the government behind them and an entire police force at their disposal. Without a public defender on their side, an accused person may be intimidated into pleading guilty.

The shield between ordinary citizens and the power of the state



MARCH 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

3 4 5 6

10 11 12 13

17 18 19 20

24 25 26 27

31

Public Defender Clients
 85% Men
 15% Women
 \$25,000 Average yearly income

MARCH 2013

Thursday Friday Saturday

7 8 9
 14 15 16
 21 22 23
 28 29 30

51% African American
 24% White
 16.3% Latino
 8.7% Other

Deputy Public Defender Matt Sotorosen of the Felony Unit and his client Felipe, who was acquitted of assault charges after the evidence showed he acted in self-defense.

The pulley that hoists you from the cracks



The Public Defender's Legal Educational Advocacy Program (LEAP) helps disentangle students from the justice system, setting them on a path to success. A public defender represents students who face expulsion and works with the school district and parents to improve educational outcomes.

APRIL 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1 2 3

California Governor signs bill allowing women to practice law, 1878

7 8 9 10

14 15 16 17

21 22 23 24

28 29 30

LEAP Program Statistics

- 120 Referrals handled
- 57 Education hearings: Helped all 57 students obtain appropriate educational services and prevented expulsions in all cases
- 210 School visits

Thursday Friday Saturday

4 5 6

11 12 13

18 19 20

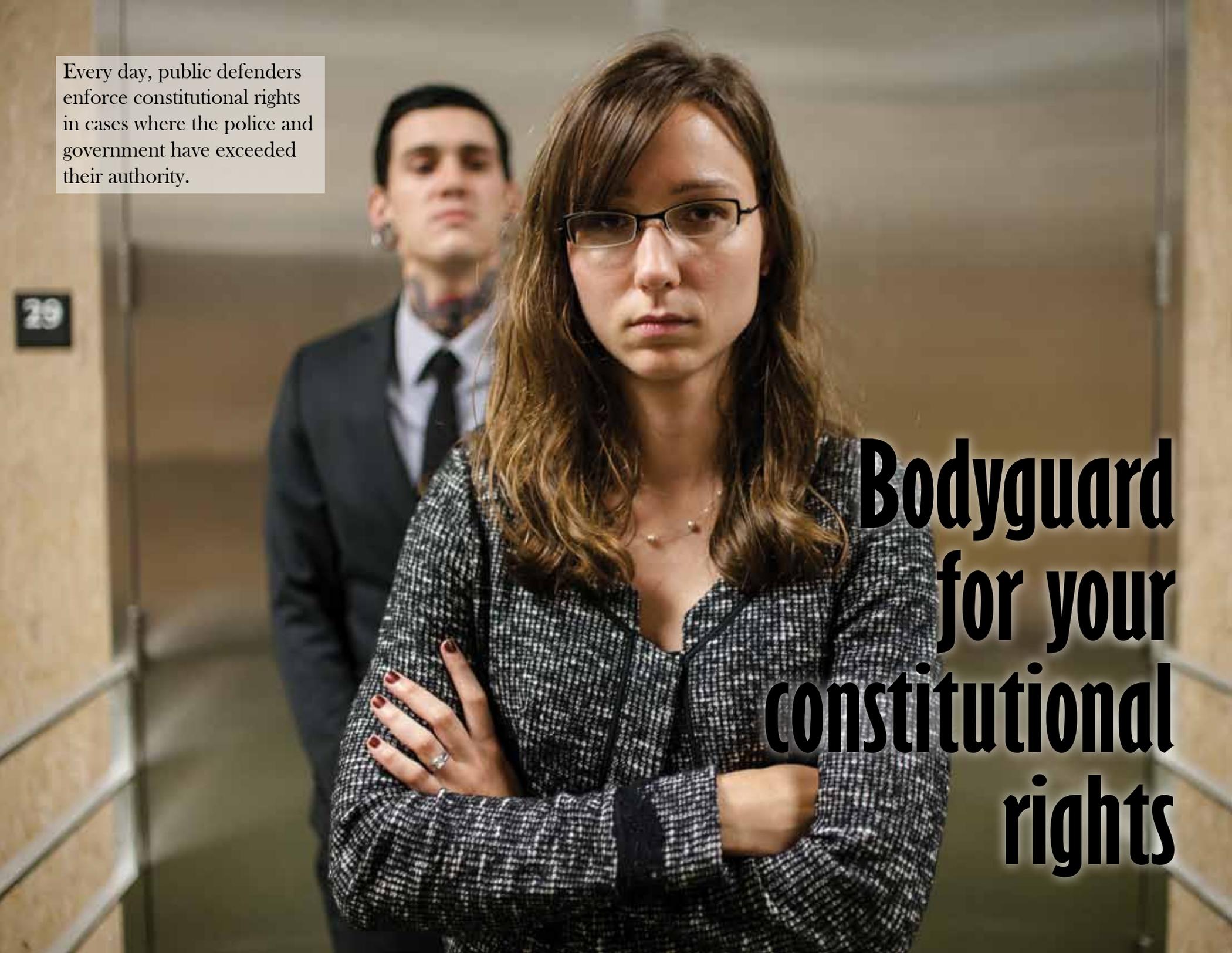
25 26 27

Former client Sharene now helps guide youth at the Principal Center Collaborative, a high school for students who have had trouble with the law.

Background: Youth Advocate Mark Babus and Deputy Public Defender Lauren Brady-Blalock of the Juvenile Unit's LEAP program.

Every day, public defenders enforce constitutional rights in cases where the police and government have exceeded their authority.

**Bodyguard
for your
constitutional
rights**



MAY 2013

MAIL WILL NOT BE DELIVERED WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM WITH THESE RULES

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Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1

BMAGIC Literacy is Freedom

INSTITUTION _____ CELL NUMBER _____

NAME _____ NUMBER _____
5 6 7 8

12 13 14 15

19 20 21 22

Harvey Milk Day

26 27 28 29

Memorial Day

Research Unit Statistics

- 1,353 Motions to dismiss/suppress
- 47 Residency restriction litigation
- 62 Appeals

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Thursday Friday Saturday

2 3 4

INSTITUTION _____ CELL NUMBER _____

NAME _____ NUMBER _____
9 10 11

An Evening with Sister Helen Prejean, Temple Emanu-El

16 17 18

23 24 25

Johnson v. Zerbst, 1938

30 31

- 23 Legal research papers
- 36 Motions
- 43 Training presentations

Deputy Public Defender Ariana Downing of the Misdemeanor Unit protects client William's right to a fair trial.

Navigator on the road to recovery



Public defender clients turn their lives around through Drug Court. Approximately 86 percent of the most recent graduating class used drugs daily or multiple times a week when they entered the program. Today, 100 percent are drug free. Nearly half have reconnected with their children.

JUNE 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

2 3 4 5

9 10 11 12

16 17 18 19

23 24 25 26

30

San Francisco
LGBT Pride Parade

Drug Court Statistics

- 178 Participants
- 89 Graduated and had charges dismissed
- 100% Decrease in homelessness among graduates
- 72% Graduates enrolled in school or vocational programs or with plans to enroll

Thursday Friday Saturday

6 7 8

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20 21 22

27 28 29

U.S. Constitution
ratified, 1788

Client Elley, right, was one of 89 Drug Court graduates to make a fresh start in 2012. His charges were dismissed.

JOURNEY TO GIDEON AND BEYOND

1789: Sixth Amendment created. Introduced as part of the Bill of Rights, it guarantees those accused of crimes the right to a speedy and public trial, an impartial jury, to be informed of the accusations they face, to confront witnesses and have the assistance of defense counsel.

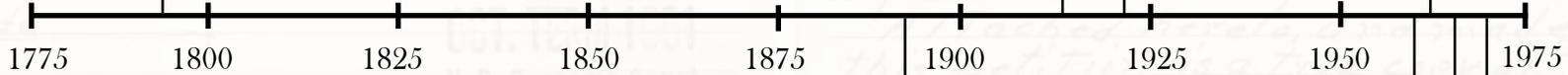
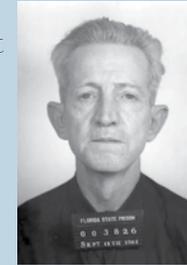
1914: Clara Foltz' lobbying results in Los Angeles County officials hiring Walton J. Wood to head the first public defender's office in the United States.



1921: California lawmakers extend the public defender system to all state courts. Frank Egan appointed first San Francisco Public Defender.



1963: *Gideon v. Wainwright*: In this landmark case that resulted in a public defender system in all 50 states, the court finds that attorneys must be provided to indigent defendants in all felony cases.



1893: Clara Foltz introduces her then-radical idea of a public defender system to the Board of Lady Managers at the Chicago World's Fair. Foltz, California's first female lawyer, would go on to become the foremother of today's public defender system.



1961: *Hamilton v. Alabama*: High court rules that attorneys must be provided at no expense to defendants in death penalty cases when requested, even if there is no "ignorance, feeble mindedness, illiteracy, or the like."

1968: *In Re Gault* extends the right to an attorney to indigent children facing juvenile delinquency hearings.



1972: *Argersinger v. Hamlin* offers the right to counsel to all misdemeanor defendants in cases where there is a potential loss of liberty.

WHO WAS CLARENCE EARL GIDEON?

The Man

His case is among the most important legal victories for the poor, but Clarence Earl Gideon was an unlikely reformer.

Gideon was born in 1910 to a poor family in Hannibal, Mo. His father died when Gideon was 3. Gideon rebelled against his religious mother and stepfather, quitting school after eighth grade and running away to live as a railroad vagabond. The next three decades would be marked by poverty, prison stints, alcoholism and health problems.

He was married four times and had three children, all of whom were taken by welfare authorities.

The Crime

On June 3, 1961, someone burglarized a Panama City, Fla. pool hall and beer joint, making off with \$5 in change, and a few bottles of beer and soda. The owner of the establishment reported that \$50 was also stolen from the jukebox. A man who lived nearby told police he had seen Gideon exit the pool hall and catch a cab, a bottle of wine in his hand and his pockets bulging with coins. Gideon was arrested in a bar a short time later.

The Trial

Because he was too poor to hire an attorney, Gideon was forced to defend himself at trial. On Aug. 4, 1961, he was convicted of breaking and entering with intent to commit petty larceny.

The Appeal

From his jail cell, Gideon wrote to the FBI office in Florida and the Florida Supreme Court, explaining that his constitutional right to counsel had been violated. He was denied help. In January of 1962, he mailed a five page, handwritten petition to the Supreme Court of the United States. The high court agreed to hear his appeal.

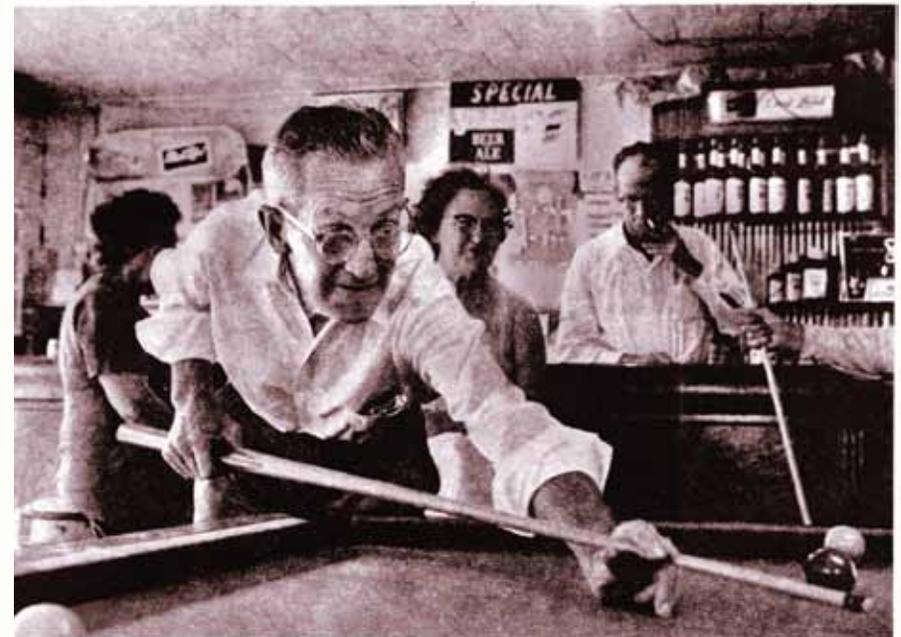
The case, originally called *Gideon v. Cochran*, was argued Jan. 15, 1963. Attorney Abe Fortas, assigned by the court to represent Gideon, argued that a common man with no training in the law could not go head to head with a trained attorney and win. It was impossible, said Fortas, to have a fair trial without counsel.

The nine Supreme Court justices agreed, ruling unanimously in Gideon's favor on March 18, 1963. Gideon was granted a second trial and appointed a public defender. The jury acquitted him after deliberating for one hour.

The Legacy

Gideon died of cancer in 1972 at age 61. His case would go on to become the catalyst of a right to counsel revolution in the United States. While some states, including California, already had a public defender system in place, the landmark ruling ensured court-appointed counsel for poor people nationally. Today, however, Gideon's promise remains unfulfilled in many ways. Indigent defense services across the country are woefully underfunded, putting poor people at greater risk of being wrongly convicted.

Still, Gideon's contribution to equal justice resonates each time a public defender triumphs over a charge that is unfair, inflated, or cannot be proven.



Gideon in the pool hall he was arrested for allegedly burglarizing.

Juvenile Statistics

- 15 Trials
- 45 Contested dispositions
- 5,031 Court appearances handled
- 0 Youth committed to Department of Juvenile Justice
- 0 Youth transferred to adult court
- 878 Total cases handled

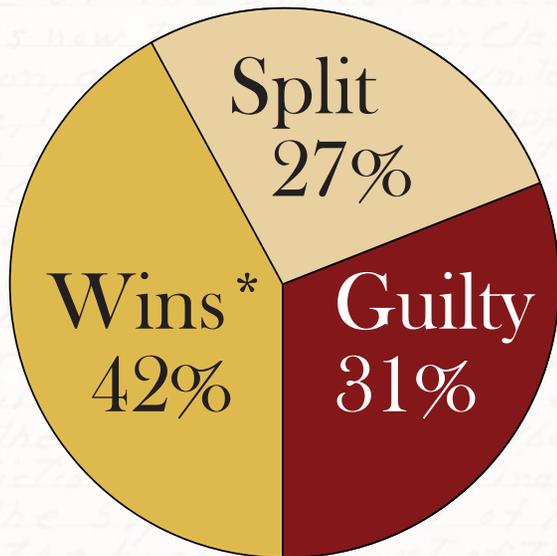
Youth Advocate/Juvenile Social Work Statistics

- 119 Cases handled
- 74% Favorable outcome for client achieved

Juvenile Unit Investigator Statistics

- 178 Referrals
- 380 Witness interviews
- 194 Subpoenas served

Misdemeanor Trial Outcomes



* not guilty/hung/dismissed at trial

Mental Health and Behavioral Health Court Statistics

- 137 Behavioral Health Court clients
- 49 Behavioral Health Court graduates
- 1 Mental Health Unit jury trial
- 6 Dismissals granted for conserved clients facing criminal charges
- 2,928 Clients served by Mental Health Unit
- 15% Public defender clients who are severely mentally ill



Chief Attorney Matt Gonzalez with panelists District Attorney George Gascón, Deputy Public Defender Tal Klement, Marty Vranicar of the California District Attorneys Association, Ethan Nadelman of Drug Policy Alliance, and Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still at the 2012 San Francisco Public Defender's Justice Summit (left to right.)

Children of Incarcerated Parents Statistics

52 Families served

Training Statistics

52 In-house workshops and lectures

64 Case conferences

100 New attorney training sessions

Clerical Statistics

22,000 New files created

100,000 Phone calls answered

500 File requests fulfilled

Transcription Statistics

4000 Pages of transcripts completed

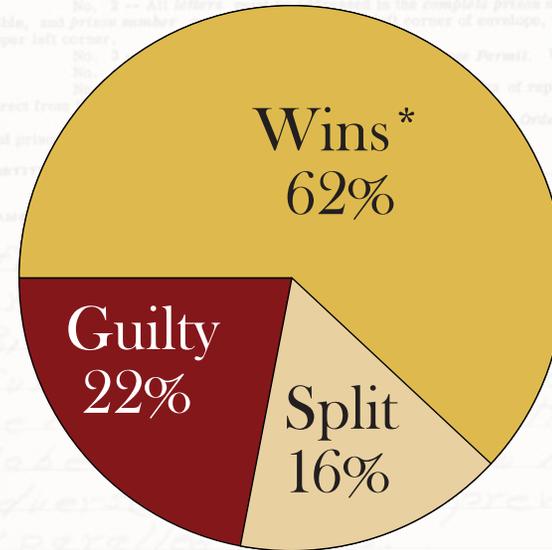
641 Rush pages completed

85 Transcript requests received



Jeff Adachi with NLADA Chairperson Lilian Johnson, President and CEO Jo-Ann Wallace, and VP of Defender Legal Services Edwin Burnette

Felony Trial Outcomes



* not guilty/hung/dismissed at trial

Special Thanks

Amos Gregory and artist Randy Figure, US Navy Veteran, of San Francisco Veteran's Mural Project: sfvetmural.org Principal Center Collaborative/ Big Picture School Walden House San Francisco Superior Court

Production Credits:

Editor: Jeff Adachi
Managing Editor/Writer: Tamara Barak Aparton
Designer: Larry Roberts
December and September photos: Larry Roberts
Jeff Adachi photo: Robert Fujioka
Staff and client photos: Richard Bui

Statistics include year-end projections.



Freedom Fighter

San Francisco deputy public defenders represented more than 20,000 San Franciscans charged in felony, misdemeanor, juvenile and mental health cases.

An ally to get you past your past

A man and a woman are sitting at a desk, looking at documents. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket over a blue and white plaid shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a blue patterned top. They appear to be in a professional setting, possibly a law office or a government agency. The background is slightly blurred, showing what looks like a bulletin board or a wall with some papers.

The Public Defender's Clean Slate program facilitates second chances, allowing clients to clean up their criminal records even decades after their cases have closed. The free program has helped hundreds of people secure jobs, housing and financial aid for college.

Study buddy



Back to school jitters? The Public Defender's Office has got your back(pack). In 2012, BMAGIC and Mo' MAGIC provided 4,300 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to low income San Francisco kids from kindergarten to 12th grade. MAGIC (Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in Our Communities) was founded by the Public Defender to improve the quality of life for families in Bayview Hunters Point and the Western Addition and to prevent children from becoming involved in crime.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1 2 3 4

Labor Day
Clara Foltz dies, 1934

8 9 10 11

15 16 17 18

U.S. Constitution
adopted, 1787

22 23 24 25

29 30

BMAGIC Statistics

- 3,174 Backpacks given away
- 354 Children participating in BMAGIC Literacy Fair
- 3,000 Resource guides distributed

Thursday Friday Saturday

5 6 7

12 13 14

19 20 21

26 27 28

Mo' MAGIC Statistics

- 1,200 Backpacks given away
- 800+ Children participating in Summer Learning Day
- 600 National Night Out attendees

2012 BMAGIC and Mo' MAGIC back to school backpack events at the Bayview Opera House, Joseph Lee Recreation Center and Ella Hill Hutch Community Center drew a record number of families.

A voice, at long last.

After the public defender's office exposed surveillance video showing police officers illegally entering residential hotel rooms with master keys, San Francisco police in 2012 issued an order to stop the practice.



OCTOBER 2013

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Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1 2

6 7 8 9

13 14 15 16

Indigenous People's Day
First San Francisco public defender appointed, 1921

20 21 22 23

27 28 29 30

Thursday Friday Saturday

3 4 5

10 11 12

17 18 19

24 25 26

31

Halloween

Residential hotel resident Lennie was falsely accused of threatening a police officer. He was acquitted with the help of Deputy Public Defender Michelle Tong.

Misconduct Statistics

- 792 Total cases dismissed due to police/prosecutorial misconduct
- 701 Cases dismissed due to police drug lab misconduct
- 91 Cases dismissed due to hotel room search scandal

Believers in redemption

A photograph of three people sitting on stone steps outdoors. On the left is a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a black jacket and a tan scarf, laughing. In the center is a man with a short haircut and glasses, wearing a black jacket, also laughing. On the right is a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket and a red scarf, laughing. They are all looking towards each other. The background shows a wooden door with glass panes and some potted plants.

In 2006, Ruben was sentenced to 11 years in prison. He kept in touch with his paralegal throughout his incarceration and when he was released, worked with a social worker to find a program to help him maintain sobriety. Today, Ruben oversees all departments at a recovery center in San Francisco and is planning to attend college.

NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

3 4 5 6

10 11 12 13

Veteran's Day

17 18 19 20

24 25 26 27

Paralegal Statistics

- 2,900 Subpoenas created and sent
- 300 Clients provided suits for trial
- 684 Trial exhibits created

Thursday Friday Saturday

7 8 9

14 15 16

Powell v. Alabama.
1932

21 22 23

28 29 30

Thanksgiving Day

Social Work Statistics

- 262 Clients assessed and referred to treatment, housing and other services
- 84% Program placement rate

Paralegal Joan Kruckewitt, left, and social worker Shannon Bennett, right, catch up with Ruben at Walden House.

A team effort



Happy 50th Anniversary, Gideon!

DECEMBER 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

1 2 3 4

8 9 10 11

15 16 17 18

22 23 24 25

29 30 31

Christmas

Staff Statistics

Staff Breakdown: 13 Managing Attorneys, 79 Attorneys, 11 Social Workers,
15 Clerical, 19 Investigators, 5 Information Technology, 6 Administration,
4 MAGIC, 17 Paralegal

Languages spoken by staff members: Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian,
Tagalog, Vietnamese, French, Japanese, Korean, Samoan

Thursday Friday Saturday

5 6 7

12 13 14

19 20 21

26 27 28

Attorneys and
staff members of
the San Francisco
Public Defender's
Office.

2013 Dates to Watch



March 19: Public Defender's Justice Summit at San Francisco Main Library with Karen Houpert, author of *Chasing Gideon: The Elusive Quest for Poor People's Justice*



May 9: Together We Can End the Death Penalty: A Special Evening with Sister Helen Prejean at Temple Emanu-El



May 1: BMAGIC Literacy is Freedom children's book fair at Bayview Opera House



June 30: March with the Public Defender contingent at the San Francisco Pride parade



"If an obscure Florida convict named Clarence Earl Gideon had not sat down in prison with a pencil and paper to write a letter to the Supreme Court; and if the Supreme Court had not taken the trouble to look at the merits in that one crude petition among all the bundles of mail it must receive every day, the vast machinery of American law would have gone on functioning undisturbed. But Gideon did write that letter; the court did look into his case; he was re-tried with the help of competent defense counsel; found not guilty and released from prison after two years of punishment for a crime he did not commit. And the whole course of legal history has been changed."

— Robert F. Kennedy, 1963

Ways to Connect

Website: sfpublicdefender.org

Twitter: @SFDefender

Facebook.com/SFPublicDefender

YouTube.com/SFPublicDefender

Gideon's Army film: gideonsarmythefilm.com

Gideon national celebration: gideonslegacy.org

San Francisco Public Defender's Office
555 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

sfpublicdefender.org

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