

Fight. Build. Heal.



San Francisco Public Defender 2019 Annual Report / 2020 Calendar

San Francisco Public Defender

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Clean Slate Program

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Clean Slate Hours and Locations:

Arriba Juntos Office

1850 Mission Street
4th Monday of the month, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Se habla español

Main Office

555 7th Street
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Community Justice Center

555 Polk St., 2nd floor
2nd Wednesday of the month, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

The Village Community Center

1099 Sunnydale Avenue
4th Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Ella Hill Hutch Community Center

1050 McAllister Street
(between Webster & Buchanan in the Fillmore)
1st Thursdays of the month, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Southeast Community Center

1800 Oakdale Avenue
3rd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Photo credits: Covers — Larry Roberts; Mano Raju headshot — Naveed Ahmad; January — Nigel Phillips; February — Brittany Ford; March — Zachary Waterman; April — Francisco Ugarte; May — Artricia Moore; June — Larry Roberts; Mano Raju award photo — John Klein of JKlein Photography, courtesy SABA; Elizabeth Camacho award photo — Maria Evangelista; Policy Work — Jacq Wilson; Simin Shamji Specialty Programs & Initiatives photo — Emanuel de Sousa; July — Tim Kingston; August — Department of Children, Youth & Their Families; September — Richard Bui; October — Valerie Ibarra; November — Richard Bui; December — SF Gov TV.

2019 has been a year of remarkable changes for our office, our city, our state, and our country. In the midst of all of it, I am so proud of our office for keeping up the good fight for our clients and each other.

In February, we lost our inimitable leader, Jeff Adachi. The shock of his death not only saddened every one of us deeply, but represented a huge loss to San Franciscans who came out in droves to memorialize a lion of justice and public service. We stand with Jeff's family in honoring his life, his defense of the Constitution, and his groundbreaking contributions to public defense.

Being appointed by Mayor London Breed to lead our office in the wake of our collective loss was a huge honor and opportunity to step up and carry forward the legacy of courage in the fight for racial justice, immigrant rights, opportunities for youth, access to substance treatment and mental health care, and integrity from all of the agencies involved in the criminal legal system. I am humbled by the outpouring of support from San Franciscans. I recognize that those who voted for me voted for the strength and passion of our entire office to carry on our mandate to pursue humane reforms in criminal justice.

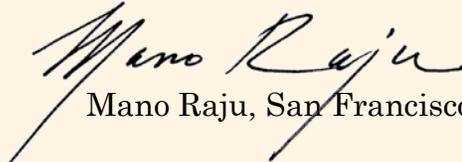
A new California law went into effect in January 2019 that makes certain police misconduct records public. Our office has been pushing for the expedited release of these records as they are urgently relevant to our clients' cases. It took several months before local agencies began releasing these records to us, but our new Integrity Unit is committed to addressing any dangerous and dishonest actions of law enforcement that may jeopardize our clients' cases and diminish public safety.



U.S. immigration courts – which answer to the Executive Branch – have become highly politicized. As the son of immigrants, who were able to come to the United States from their farming village in Tamil Nadu in southern India, largely due to the Civil Rights Movement and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, I am deeply committed to growing our Immigration Unit who are well-equipped and unafraid to inform the court of the civil and human rights of our clients and their families.

We not only fight for the rights of our indigent clients, day in and day out, but we do it with an eye on the systemic problems that bring many of our clients to us in the first place. We remain engaged with our community – here in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and with all of you around the country – which wants to challenge the status quo that has resulted in the absurdity of mass incarceration and the devastation of communities, especially communities of color and those who are economically disadvantaged. We are all part of that shift to change the course of our country and culture.

We offer this year's calendar both as a retrospective of the past year and a window to the year ahead, as we continue to fight fiercely for our clients, build up their hope and courage, and together move toward the individual and collective healing that will energize us into action.


Mano Raju, San Francisco Public Defender

Remember



SF PUBLIC DEFENDER'S
MAKING JUSTICE



JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Fred Korematsu Day	31	

As the only elected public defender in the state of California, Jeff Adachi led the San Francisco Public Defender's Office into the spotlight of history time and again. He fearlessly exposed corruption in the police department, formed an Immigration Unit to address the mounting challenges in Trump's America, pushed for policy reforms to eliminate fines, fees, and bail, and used documentary film to tell the story of public defenders and the people and communities we serve.

Jeff's unmistakable commitment to community was the cornerstone of his legacy. Whether it was his efforts to close the school to prison pipeline by co-founding our MAGIC programs to keep youth connected to opportunities within their communities, or working with United Playaz to reverse the cycles of neighborhood violence and poverty, Jeff's work was done with an eye toward transforming society from the grass roots up.

Ever the zealous attorney, he went the extra mile to get to know his clients and encourage them to stay strong in the face of a system that often wanted to write them off and lock them away. As former clients have attested in his films and otherwise, they would not be who they are today if they hadn't had Jeff Adachi in their corner.

In the wake of his sudden and tragic death, thousands of San Franciscans gathered with us for a spontaneous vigil march on a dark February night to honor the man who had shone his light so brightly in his short but mighty life of public service.

Our work will continue to be infused with the courage Jeff Adachi ignited in every one of us.

Envision



Before being appointed Public Defender in the wake of Jeff Adachi's passing, Mano Raju was making his own waves in the courtroom. As the Managing Felony Attorney and Director of Training at the SF Public Defender's Office, and previously as a line attorney here and in Contra Costa county, Mano was known for his fierce advocacy for his clients.

In *People v. Landers*, 2019, Mano was sanctioned \$950 for supposedly violating a discovery order, declaring he had no duty to disclose to the prosecutor statements by a codefendant's witness he did not intend to call. Chief Attorney Matt Gonzalez – so invested in Mano's position that he paid the fine himself – and Director of Research Chris Gauger represented Mano against the sanction and won the \$950 back with interest. Justice Streeter's decision noted Mano's "clever, effective, and artful advocacy," his "investigative industry and effort," and praised his successful trial strategy. It has been lauded by legal experts as the best decision in state history for criminal defense lawyers dedicated to doing everything in their power to prepare for trial.

Mano's vision for the department emphasizes the importance of building personal relationships with clients and communities, turning moments of doubt and risk into smart decisions, and encouraging clients to fight hard with confidence that a favorable and fair outcome is attainable.

Just as Mano builds up resilience in his clients, he applies a holistic approach to healing the community at-large. Pictured above at Mo'MAGIC's Summer Reading day, providing opportunities for local youth to thrive is another way we serve as a community-empowerment organization.

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Restore



MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Primary Election Day	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 César Chávez Day				

Emmitt Lewis was freed after spending sixteen years in prison on a life sentence for sitting in the passenger seat of a car while the driver sped away from the police, killing a man.

Niki Solis, his attorney since the case's inception in 2003, and co-counsel Kristen Hucek of Kecker, Van Nest & Peters, conducted a court trial on the case after the California State Legislature passed and former Governor Jerry Brown signed into law SB 1437, which mandates that only those who are actual killers (or "major participants" with a reckless indifference to human life) during a specified felony, may be convicted of felony murder. Mr. Lewis, who was never identified as the robber and was serving a life sentence for sitting in the passenger seat, was the first person freed in California after a contested felony murder re-trial based on the new law.

An expert in physics and accident reconstruction, Chris Kauderer, testified that all of the physical and forensic evidence indicated Mr. Lewis was the passenger and after the two-day trial and expert testimony, the original trial judge, John Stewart, found that the SF District Attorney's Office did not prove Mr. Lewis to be the driver beyond a reasonable doubt.

We have other 1437 re-sentencing cases pending, headed by Rebecca Young and Jacque Wilson, who famously won his own brother relief under the reformed felony murder rule. They are being assisted by Steph Liebb, a formerly incarcerated Paralegal who is dedicated to post-conviction relief.

Persevere



In 2017, Jeff Adachi asked Immigration Unit Manager Francisco Ugarte to assist his Iraqi client picked up by ICE. The man had been conscripted into the Iraqi army, escaped and was tortured, then lost his family to a U.S. air strike in the Gulf War. He was shot as he fled Saddam's army and spent two years in a refugee camp before coming to the U.S. Our team reopened his deportation order from 2003 stemming from drug related offenses, and won him relief under the Convention Against Torture. For the first time in his life, he is protected against deportation.

Deputy Public Defender Gabriella Rodezno represented a father picked up for driving without a license. Gabriella called a mental health expert who testified that her client's young child had been suffering since her father's incarceration. The expert helped prove the "extreme and exceptionally unusual hardship" to his family if he were deported. Along with a packed courtroom, it swayed a staunch judge to cancel his removal and the client became eligible for his first green card!

Deputy Public Defender Hector Vega won relief under the Convention Against Torture for an indigenous, Purepecha-speaking mother of six, who had been a torture victim and a survivor of brutal domestic violence and child abuse. ICE arrested her in 2017 due to an Interpol Red Notice from Mexico issued for a case where she was coerced to confess. He took immediate steps to perfect her asylum and relief claims and after a lengthy court battle, relief was granted.

These are just three examples of our Immigration Unit going the extra mile to make sure that evidence and statements are gathered and courtrooms are packed to sway and inform a politicized immigration court of our clients' rights and the human consequences of deportation orders.

APRIL 2020

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Heal



MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Memorial Day

Harvey Milk Day

San Francisco is facing many challenges with people suffering from mental health issues, many of whom are homeless, and some of whom are our clients. Our Mental Health Unit exclusively works on behalf of clients who are committed or conserved. Finding a place for them to transition out of jails and into various levels of treatment has proven difficult due to limited resources.

Our attorneys advocate zealously for the needs of some of our most vulnerable clients, and have had many successes in the past year.

Attorney Dan Meyer was frustrated by the length of time it was taking for a handful of clients to get placed in proper care facilities, and decided to issue subpoenas to local health officials to find out why. The result was that several people were offered placement.

Attorney Artricia Moore-Jenkins got a client freed after 28 years in the system. Her client's mental health diagnoses date back to his childhood, and after participating in a series of robberies, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity and committed to Napa State Hospital.

Our office helped him win two stints of outpatient supervision, but despite holding jobs and never reoffending, unfortunate circumstances saw him remanded. Finally, in November 2019, he was freed as Artricia established that he posed no danger to others and was able to receive treatment in community. Pictured above, she and paralegal, Harrison Hafner, escorted him to his new program.

The Mental Health Unit is looking forward to improvements and expansion of court-ordered programs available to help our most vulnerable San Franciscans in 2020.

Collaborate



As we gained new leadership with Mano being appointed and then elected the Public Defender of San Francisco, he brought with him the vision that the further we collaborate, the stronger the cases we will build for our clients and the more supported we will feel in our work.

In that light, many people with a diversity of experience and perspectives have been given the opportunity to lead. Meet our Felony Departmental Leads – Doug Welch, Liz Camacho, and Aleem Raja – all of whom have demonstrated an empowering approach and a robust trial practice. In their new role, leads are matched with attorneys as soon as a new case is assigned and can provide support throughout.

Each attorney is also paired with an Investigator – who is often doing the early critical work to collect evidence and video footage that can help make or break a case – and a Paralegal, whose essential work creates the paper trail necessary to move the case forward.

Our ability to serve our clients depends on the passionate dedication of our Research Unit, Paralegals, Social Workers, Clerical, Administrative, and IT staff who write, review, schedule, process and deliver everything necessary to strengthen our practice and support our pursuit of justice.

The IT team not only provides the crucial communications infrastructure we need to do our work, but also contributes to our various data and research projects that support our policy pursuits. This year, the IT team also collaborated to launch our new public website.

JUNE 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

The San Francisco Public Defender's Office was honored with the "Champions of Public Defense Award" from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) for our work on behalf of bail reform.

Jeff Adachi – San Francisco Public Defender 2003 to 2019 – was honored with "The Equity Award" a prestigious racial justice award from the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD), of which Jeff was a founding member. The award was presented posthumously at the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts; Miami-Dade County Public Defender Carlos Martinez accepted the award on Adachi's behalf. Jeff Adachi was also celebrated posthumously as "The Signature Event Honoree" by the Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN) in March 2019, where Mano Raju spoke on his behalf.



photo by John Klein of JKlein Photography, courtesy SABA

Mano Raju – San Francisco Public Defender – was honored with the "Public Interest Achievement Award" from the South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA) for showing a deep commitment to public service of the South Asian community and community at large.

Awards

Patti Lee – Managing Attorney of our Juvenile Unit – was named "Woman of the Year" by the San Francisco Commission and Department on the Status of Women & The San Francisco Board of Supervisors in celebration of Women's History Month. Both for her work with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and as President of Pacific Juvenile Defender Center (PJDC) she was recognized for her role as a champion of peace and nonviolence, public service and leadership, who has improved the quality of life for all San Franciscans. Patti was also honored with the "Community Advocate Award" by Huckleberry Youth Programs for her work in juvenile justice.

Maria Evangelista – Deputy Public Defender in Specialty Courts – was honored for her work with the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association and a dedication to working in a unified manner to advance the cause of diversity in the legal profession. Maria received the "Unity Award" from the Minority Bar Coalition.

Elizabeth Camacho – Deputy Public Defender and Felony Departmental Lead – was honored for demonstrating professional excellence, integrity, leadership, commitment to the Hispanic community, and dedication to improving the legal profession. Liz received the "Top Lawyers Under 40 Award" from the Hispanic National Board Association (HNBA).

SPECIAL DISTINCTION:

In November 2018, UC Berkeley California Policy Lab released the findings of a study which asked the question: Are Public Defenders Better at Indigent Defense Than Court-Appointed Attorneys? It turns out the answer is yes! In San Francisco, defendants represented by public defenders have better outcomes than their codefendants who are represented by court-appointed private attorneys. In fact, those represented by public defenders in San Francisco were "6% less likely to be convicted of any crime... 22% less likely to receive a prison sentence... and on average receive 10% shorter prison terms."

One possible explanation offered was that public defenders in San Francisco are, "more diverse, younger, and hold degrees from higher-ranked colleges and law schools than court-appointed private attorneys." A more "structural explanation" is the size and resources of our organization with many specialized programs that private attorneys may not have. We most certainly respect the dedication of our court-appointed peers, but are proud that our organization continues to deliver the most favorable outcomes for the people we serve.



The study was authored by Yotam Shem-Tov, and the brief written by Elsa Augustine, at the California Policy Lab

photo by Maria Evangelista

Policy Work



photo by Jacq Wilson

We are proud of our continued participation in litigation, legislation and working groups to help form more just and equitable public policy.

After former Deputy Public Defender Chesa Boudin appealed the exorbitant bail placed on Kenneth Humphrey in 2018 and argued that it violated due process and equal protection under the law, California's First District Court of Appeal agreed. Before leaving to run for District Attorney, Chesa and our Director of Research Chris Gauger helped prepare the case to be heard before the California State Supreme Court in 2020.

Expanding upon our local success eliminating discretionary fines and fees – such as for probation, electronic monitoring, and DUI testing – that saddle individuals and their families with debt, we joined the Debt

Free Justice CA coalition to co-sponsor SB 144, a piece of legislation called the Family Over Fees Act authored by State Senator Holly Mitchell. It would eliminate many of the high pain and low gain administrative fees imposed by the criminal legal system, support the economic security of system-involved families statewide, and relieve a burden so often carried by our communities of color.

Deputy Public Defender Rebecca Young, whose lobbying efforts helped reform the felony murder rule in 2018, has been part of the San Francisco Police Department Working Group helping to re-write the departmental general orders. She has been helping to update police policies for investigative detentions, bias in policing, and prohibition of discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

Specialty Programs & Initiatives

Simin Shamji is our Director of Specialty Programs & Initiatives who oversees our work with Collaborative Courts. These programs are designed to offer alternatives to incarceration in the hopes that by giving people an opportunity to gain valuable life skills and access to the case management and treatment they may need, will ultimately give them a chance to rehabilitate, thrive, and not reoffend.

Before running for and winning his historic campaign for San Francisco District Attorney, Deputy Public Defender Chesa Boudin was deeply committed to the collaborative courts and played a key role in expanding various specialty programs,

such as our Pretrial Release Unit which meets with clients immediately after booking to try to help them avoid further trauma of incarceration.

Simin was asked to lend her expertise to Chesa's transition advisory team to help him set a course for real systemic change as he takes office in January 2020.

Simin's participation in this group is consistent with her vast experience in policy work that has influenced collaborative courts, bail and sentencing reform, mental health advocacy, ending criminal fines and fees, addressing racial disparities, and decarceration.



photo by Emanuel de Sousa

Statistics

Felony Unit

Jury Trials: 69
Acquittal, hung, mistrial, dismissal: 54%
Guilty: 25%
Split verdict: 21%
Final outcome vs. Pretrial Offer:
Better than offer: 62.5%
Same as offer: 25%
Worse than offer: 12.5%
Motions filed: 2,268
Preliminary hearings: 912
Cases resolved by misdemeanor: 1,143
Resolved by felony plea agreement: 533
Average cases per atty at a given time: 46
Motions to reduce bail: 1035
Dismissals: 723

Misdemeanor Unit

Jury Trials: 146
Acquittal, hung, mistrial, dismissal: 35%
Guilty: 40%
Split verdict: 25%
Final outcome vs. Pretrial Offer:
Better than offer: 52%
Same as offer: 26%
Worse than offer: 22%
Motions filed: 1586
Motions to reduce bail: 188
Dismissals: 1064
Dismissals at trial call: 285
Average cases per atty at a given time: 95

Volunteer Attorney Program

Participants in VAP Program: 13
Trials by volunteer attorneys: 38
Motions by volunteer attorneys: 184

Research Unit

Trial and pretrial motions and memos: 97
Writs and appeals: 35
Seminars and trainings: 38

Mental Health Unit

Client cases: 3,042
Dismissals for conserved clients: 14
Jury trials: 0
Clients found gravely disabled in trial: 0
Client released back into the community
after 20-plus years of involuntary
hospitalization: 1

Immigration Unit

Detained clients represented: 157
Applications for relief filed: 192
Individual (merits) hearings
conducted: 53
Appeals filed at Board of Immigration
Appeals: 26
Ninth Circuit Petitions for Review
files: 12
Padilla consultations completed: 629
Habeas petitions filed in federal
district court: 7
Post Conviction Relief motions filed: 28
(14 out of county, including Los
Angeles, Sacramento, San Joaquin,
Kern, Santa Clara and San Mateo)
Investigation requests: 34

Juvenile Unit

Trials: 20
Contested disposition: 36
Child Family Team Meetings: 97
Department of Juvenile Justice: 0!
Youth transferred to adult court: 0!

LEAP and Juvenile Social Work

Referrals: 215
IEP meetings attended: 156
Court appearances: 829
Child Family Team Meetings: 142
LEAP clients expelled: 1
School visits: 1,062
AB 12: 50
Favorable outcomes: 75%
Detention intakes: 125
5 Birthday cakes brought to juvenile hall

BMAGIC

Children who participated in the
Book Fair: 554
Books distributed at the Book Fair: 1,567
Backpacks with school supplies
distributed: 2,300
Resource guides distributed 2018-2019:
6,000

Mo'MAGIC

Backpacks distributed to students at this
year's Backpack Giveaway: 1,280
Books given to youth: about 3,500 books,
2-3 books given in the backpacks at
Backpack Giveaway.
Youth taking part in two city-wide
learning days: 2,500
Hours spent reading during our
Summer Reading Program
co-facilitated with USF: 9,600
Summer events held for more than 1,000
youth: Summer Kick Off, Civic Center
Plaza, 6/12/19; Summer Learning Day
African American Arts and Culture Com-
plex, 7/11/19; Backpack Giveaway, Ella
Hill Hutch Community Center 8/4/19

Investigation Unit

Investigation requests: 3,088
Interviews requested: 4,095
Subpoenas requested: 1,484
Requests for video canvassing
(surveillance): 689
Hours spent canvassing for video:
1,151.02

Paralegal Unit

Exhibits: 825
Trial Binders: 320
Subpoenas: 5,200

Intern Program

College, law school, post bar
and attorneys: 210
High school students: 29

Drug Court

Clients served: 157
Graduates: 19
Graduates who were drug-free, safely
housed and had a legal source of
income: 100%

Young Adult Court

Clients Served: 151
Current number of participants: 110
Graduates: 30
Clients who received developmentally
appropriate, trauma-informed
and evidence supported wellness
plans: 100%

Veterans Justice Center

Clients served: 129
Graduates: 30
Graduates who received treatment and
stable housing: 100%

Behavioral Health Court

BHC Clients Served: 152
Graduated: 14
MBHC clients served: 74
Graduated: 11

Social Work Unit

Clients assessed: 344
Re-entry clients referred to substance
use disorder and mental health
treatment, shelter/housing, and
other social services: 100%

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Families served: 74
Families referred to services: 100%

Pre-Release Unit

PRU Interviews: 3,801
Parole outreach: 764
PRU investigations initiated: 288

Bail Statistics

Bail motions filed: 550
Bail motions granted: 115
Bail reductions granted: 15
Cases resolved after bail motions
filed: 135
Cases dismissed after bail motions
filed: 30

Community Justice Center

Incoming cases handled: 854
Eligible participants referred to services
or performed community service: 100%

Clean Slate

People with prior arrests and convictions
served: 8,026
Motions filed: 1,559
Motions granted: 1,322

Transcription

Recordings transcribed: 81
Pages of transcripts completed: 1,014

**Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
(L.E.A.D.)**

Client referrals: 168
Clients who completed initial screening
and assessment: 94

IT Unit

Batches of Police Body Camera Videos
Downloaded: 4,250

Training Unit

Workshops and lectures: 50
New attorney training sessions: 122
Case conferences: 108
Felony Trial Practice Group meetings: 40
Misdemeanor TPG meetings: 52
(statistics include year-end projections)

Inspire



JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

One of the ways that we seek to inspire the next generation of justice workers, is to provide internship opportunities. High school students learn job skills, undergraduates gain experience outside their field of study, and law students become invaluable allies and research assistants to our attorneys while gaining confidence and knowledge that they can apply to their future practice.

In this photo, two undergraduate investigator interns from Westmont College of Santa Barbara, CA, celebrated the end of three packed months of subpoenas, video canvassing, interviews and document scanning. They offered significant assistance to the investigative unit while at the same time learning how the criminal justice system really works as opposed to what is on TV.

Another program we are proud to offer is San Francisco Court Watch. We have partnered with The Davis Vanguard of Yolo County, CA, which brings everyday people and some of our interns into San Francisco courtrooms as observers and turns them into citizen journalists. The Court Watch program is an important medium to create access to these stories – which otherwise may never be told – to offer a lens on public defense and let the courts know that the public is watching.

Some interns have such profound experiences in the time they spend with us, that many end up going on to focus their studies and careers in the work of public defense. Sometimes, they even end up working here in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office as investigators, paralegals, social workers and attorneys.

Imagine



AUGUST 2020

Our BMAGIC and Mo'MAGIC programs provide opportunities for social change that advances the education, health, and economic justice of youth and their families in the Bay View Hunters Point and Western Addition neighborhoods. Our annual back-to-school backpack giveaways make sure thousands of students have the supplies they need for a successful school year. By collaborating with community-based organizations and city agencies, we help connect youth and their families with local resources year round.

As juvenile crime rates have significantly dropped around the state, we were proud to support a local resolution of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors which voted to close Juvenile Hall in 2021, and with it the prison-like conditions that disproportionately affect youth of color. We are helping to craft the future of youth justice to create sound, secure solutions that will reduce the harms of incarceration by envisioning more nurturing and supportive environments for youth who require temporary detention prior to their court commitments.

Our Juvenile Unit represents the majority of youth cases in San Francisco, and has pioneered holistic representation through our use of social workers, youth advocates, and both criminal and education attorneys to ensure the most favorable outcomes for our young clients and keep them in school and out of adult court.

Juvenile Manager Patti Lee and Jeff Adachi pushed the envelope further in 2019 by convincing San Francisco to adopt an ordinance to require that all youth 17 and younger must have a Public Defender juvenile attorney consultation before being interrogated by police or consenting to waive their Miranda rights.

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30	31					

Strengthen



SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

One of the most powerful things we can do for our clients is to bring their authentic humanity to the courtroom. Judges and juries may only see our clients escorted in handcuffs and dressed in orange. They may never hear them speak, but are asked to judge them on information written in police reports, presented by prosecutors, or included in a prior criminal record. We endeavor to close that gap by getting to know our clients as who they are in community so that we can represent them as such in the courtroom.

One of the tasks of our talented social workers is to write social histories for our clients. They get to know their background, their family life, education and work history, whether they've completed various programs or suffer from poverty, homelessness, addiction or mental health challenges. Being able to represent our clients as whole people can help positively influence the outcome of cases and sentencing. In doing so, we hope to instill hope in our clients that they are not forgotten humans or just another caseload.

Our social workers are connected to the network of agencies, care-givers and activists who are working to inform and reform city policies so that people who need help with housing, mental health or substance treatment can actually access the resources they need and desire. Anyone in our community can come into our office and get help connecting to local services.

Social worker Fatima Avellan (far left) is our representative on the Treatment on Demand coalition, where she advocates for citywide access to culturally-aware, trauma-informed substance treatment and mental health care for all.

Engage



SAN FRANCISCO
SPCA



CHILD WORK

FINANCIAL

CHILD SUPPORT IS COME
HELP PARENTS UNDER
RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

We help with:

- Establishing child su
- Modifying and enfor
- Access to quality, co
- government entities
- Accurate access to e
- Monitoring payments

CHILD SUPPORT

- HOUSING COSTS
- UTILITIES
- GROCERIES
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- TRANSPORTATION

**HOW IS YOUR CHI
CALCULATED?**

WANT
A CLEAN
SLATE?

BxMedic



OCTOBER 2020

We know that the idea of justice is often short-sighted: People are arrested then possibly charged, convicted and sentenced. Debt to society paid. End of story, right? Sadly, no. In the criminal defense practice, we are keenly aware of some of the consequences that follow a person even after they have been released, charges dismissed, or time served. Any of these can appear on a background check, often creating barriers to employment, housing, education and financing options. People are literally punished for the rest of their lives, and we know that contributes to loss of hope, destruction to families, and recidivism.

That's why we have expanded our Clean Slate team to hit the ground and connect with the community to help them clean up their past record and open future opportunities.

With weekly drop-in office hours, five monthly visits to community centers, and other outreach events, our Clean Slate team is helping people process the rights afforded to them to have certain arrests, charges and convictions reduced or erased from their background checks. Thanks in large part to changes in California laws in recent years, such as afforded by Prop 47, thousands of people qualify to clean up their record.

In addition to helping people with the Clean Slate application process, our staff also help connect people to job opportunities and voter registration. We know that a safer and more just world depends on people having opportunities to thrive and engage with community.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Indigenous People's Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Elevate



NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

A typical day in the life of a misdemeanor public defender is not only advocating in court, but also comforting, consoling and sometimes buying breakfast for our clients who are often some of the most vulnerable of the indigent population: homeless, mentally ill and poor. Many of our clients come to court feeling confused and powerless, and part of our job is to allow them to feel heard so they can go back out into the world a little less fearful.

The San Francisco Public Defender's Office has always been a place of learning, where attorneys have an opportunity to hone their trial practice. Taking a case to trial usually produces a better outcome for the client. Even when a client is found guilty, the process of going through the journey of trial is nearly always an empowering experience for our clients.

Bolstered by experienced leadership, our robust Misdemeanor Unit not only includes newer attorneys, but many of our hires have come from other public defender offices where they were trying misdemeanor and felony trials. All of them are highly motivated and extremely qualified to give the clients top notch representation.

All of our attorneys benefit from trainings, workshops, lectures, case conferences, and trial practice group meetings throughout the year.



POLICE COMMISSION 12/4/19
4 Presentations regarding Release of SB 1421 Document

POLICE COMMISSION 11/6/19
4 General Public Comment

Integrity



POLICE COMMISSION 10/9/19
2 General Public Comment

POLICE COMMISSION 6/12/19
4 General Public Comment

Our new Integrity Unit is focused on holding government agencies accountable to the communities they serve and influencing public policy to bring about systemic change for all impacted persons.

We use data to identify and address the wasteful and inhumane practices that those we represent and their communities experience. Whether it's low-level drug arrests that disproportionately affect people of color and the economically disadvantaged, grossly over-charged cases that keep people in jail and tear families apart without improving public safety, or a system that allows any violent and racist police to stay in positions of power, our goal is to bring these realities into the light and foster concrete change.

One of our major goals is to push local agencies to follow a newly enacted 2019 law that makes certain police misconduct records public. The struggle continues on this front, and we regularly attend meetings of the Police Commission to advocate for the urgency of transparency, better coordinated efforts among city departments, and honest policing. Our clients and communities depend on it!

Pictured clockwise from top left: Danielle Harris, Jacque Wilson, Zachary Dillon, and Brian Cox address the San Francisco Police Commission.

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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
					Christmas	
27	28	29	30	31		



ght lives on through us
Jeff Adachi
1959-2019

ght lives on
Jeff Adachi
1959-2019

His fight lives on through us
Jeff Adachi
1959-2019

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Jeff Adachi
1959-2019