

Portraits of



**2011**

**Calendar and Annual Report**

**San Francisco Office of the Public Defender**

# San Francisco Public Defender's Office

## 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](http://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](mailto:community@bayviewmagic.org)  
Website: [bayviewmagic.org](http://bayviewmagic.org)

### Mo' MAGIC

Phone: 415-563-5207  
Email: [info@momagic.org](mailto:info@momagic.org)  
Website: [momagic.org](http://momagic.org)

### Reentry Council of the City & County of San Francisco

Phone: 415-553-1593  
Email: [reentry.council@sfgov.org](mailto:reentry.council@sfgov.org)  
Website: [sfreentry.com](http://sfreentry.com)



### Clean Slate Program

Phone: 415-553-9337  
Email: [cleanslate@sfgov.org](mailto:cleanslate@sfgov.org)

### Clean Slate Walk-In Clinic Hours and Locations:

- **Arriba Juntos Office**  
1850 Mission Street  
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month  
3pm-5pm  
Se habla Español.
- **Public Defender's 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

Alone and afraid, the 22-year-old proclaimed his innocence. Charged with murder, facing life in a maximum security lock-up, the main evidence against him was the testimony of a crime lab technician who claimed that his DNA was found on the handlebars of a bicycle ridden by the killer. Unable to hire a private lawyer or experts, he was represented by Deputy Public Defender Stephen Olmo.

At trial, his public defender was able to show that the majority of DNA on the bicycle belonged to another man, whom police had never attempted to identify. His defender also proved that he wasn't even at the scene when the crime occurred.

After deliberating, the jury found the young man not guilty and set him free. The technician's testimony was later discredited by a nationally known DNA expert and former prosecutor who reviewed the case.

In a courtroom, scientific evidence can mean the difference between life and death, or prison and freedom. However, as this case demonstrates, scientific testing can easily be manipulated by a technician who fails to follow proper protocols.

One month after this case was tried, reports surfaced that another technician had stolen cocaine from the police crime lab. Police were told of this problem but failed to act until the police chief was notified nearly a month later. Each passing week revealed more problems: unreliable weighing of evidence, poor record-keeping, missing drugs and evidence contamination.

Because of these breaches, the Public Defender began a comprehensive review of thousands of cases that might be affected by the technician's misconduct. In the end, prosecutors dismissed more than 700 cases based on unreliable evidence from the crime lab.

Then, in May, the *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed that nearly 100 police officer witnesses had misconduct or criminal records that had not been turned over to the defense by prosecutors as required by law. This necessitated the review of hundreds of cases by our office to determine which cases may have to be retried due to the prosecution's failure to provide critical evidence.

Why does this matter? Because our criminal justice system depends on the integrity of the evidence offered against the accused. When that evidence is unreliable, the result in the case cannot be trusted.

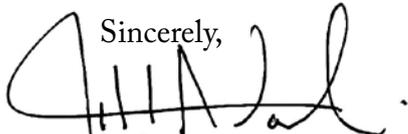
Injustice occurs when lapses in evidence collection, testing and production are overlooked in our criminal justice system. It is the function of the Public Defender and the defense bar to ensure that these injustices are corrected.

This report, titled "Portraits of Justice," reflects the dedication and hard work of the attorneys and support staff who are responsible for ensuring that the 25,000 San Franciscans who relied on our services last year received "the best defense money can't buy."

We hope you enjoy it.



We all deserve  
someone who will fight for us.

Sincerely,  
  
Jeff Adachi

Lack of money should  
never mean denial  
of justice.



Paul Myslin, Deputy Public Defender since 2001 and part of the Misdemeanor Unit, brings his lucky coin to trial. Misdemeanor attorneys won favorable outcomes in 66% of their trials in 2010.

# JANUARY 2011

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	17 Martin Luther King Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Fred Korematsu Day	31					



Public Defenders empower you by  
making sure your voice is heard!

Whether in court or in the community, public defenders fought for justice on behalf of 25,000 people in 2010.

# FEBRUARY 2011

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President's Day

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**I FIGHT  
TO GET  
KIDS  
THE HELP  
THEY  
NEED**

Deputy Public Defender Sarah Wilner and her colleagues in the Juvenile Division ensured no child was sent to state lock-up in 2010.

# MARCH 2011

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Freedom is a road seldom  
traveled by the multitude.  
I put as many people  
on it as I can.

Deputy Public Defenders Diana Rosenstein (left) and Stephanie Lacambra are members of the Felony Unit, which won favorable outcomes in nearly 80% of its trials in 2010.

# APRIL 2011

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*AN INNOCENT MAN WAS CHARGED WITH MURDER.*



*Together, we set him FREE.*

In a case of mistaken identity, Kenoye Stroman was charged with murder. The team that secured his acquittal (clockwise from top): Jackson Holland, investigator; Ivania Navarette, paralegal; Tala Winterstein, legal process clerk; Peter Fitzpatrick, deputy public defender; Sandra Reyna, transcription specialist.

# MAY 2011

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Harvey Milk Day

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Memorial Day

Yo sabia que era inocente.  
Mi Abogado Probo que Soy Inocente.



Jose was falsely arrested for robbery. His attorney, Deputy Public Defender Matt Rosen of the Felony Unit, exonerated Jose in court. Not only was Jose acquitted, but the judge issued a finding of factual innocence.

# JUNE 2011

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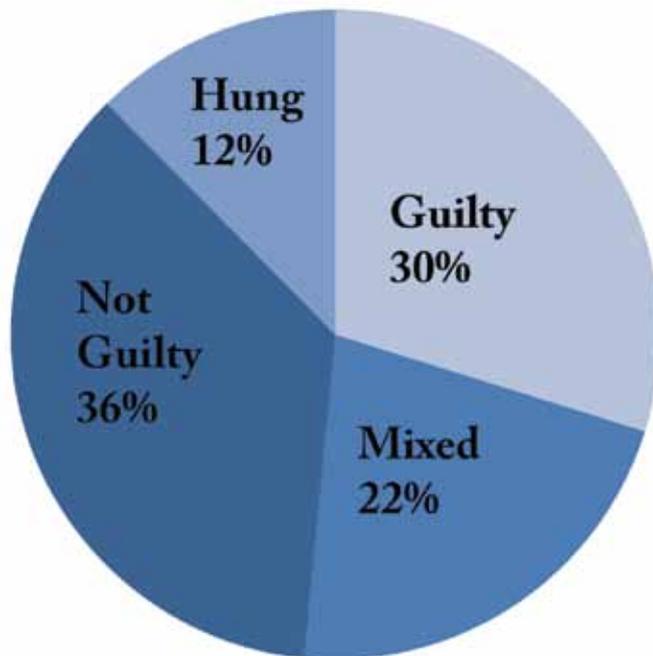
## Felony

- 701** Cases dismissed due to crime lab scandal
- 62** Total trials
- 79%** Trials won\*
- 10** Homicide trials
- 70%** Homicide trials won\*
- 2** Homicide convictions overturned on appeal



Felony Deputy Public Defender Hadi Razzaq

## Combined Felony and Misdemeanor Trial Results



## Misdemeanor

- 106** Total trials
- 66%** Trials won\*
- 14** Domestic violence trials
- 71%** Domestic violence trials won\*
- 14** Participants in Volunteer Attorney Program
- 22** Trials by volunteer attorneys

\* acquittal/mixed verdict/hung/dismissed at trial

## Research

The Research Unit had a busy 2010 after scandals involving tainted evidence and San Francisco Police Department misconduct resulted in hundreds of dismissed cases. In addition to their daily workload, research attorneys reviewed 2,000 files, thousands of pages of discovery and tracked down hundreds of clients.



Investigators Jennifer Jennings and Jill Schroeder

## Mental Health

Our office introduced a pilot program in 2010, allowing those under a mental health conservatorship to be placed in the community, minimizing their interactions with the criminal justice system.

- 3,163** Total cases handled
- 5** Criminal dismissals for conserved clients
- 2** Jury trials
- 100%** Jury trials won\*

## Information and Technology

From digital cameras to electronic client files, we apply tools and innovations from Silicon Valley to provide the best, most cost-efficient defense. When it comes to advocacy with technology, we strive to be like Google, not Government.

- 30** Laptops available to trial attorneys
- 1138** PDWiki pages—the office’s internal Wikipedia
- 150** PowerPoints used in trials

## Investigation

- 2,694** Total investigations launched
- 1:5** Ratio of investigators to attorneys
- 816** People interviewed
- 591** Subpoenas served

## Paralegal

With five paralegals hired in 2010, the unit implemented a new training program specific to the Public Defender’s Office. Paralegals vastly increased the office’s productivity by supporting attorneys in hundreds of cases.



Senior Legal Process Clerk Daniel Ponce and Paralegal Margaret So

## Behavioral Health Court

San Francisco was one of four cities selected to participate in a five-year study funded by the MacArthur Foundation to determine whether mental health courts reduce recidivism and violence. San Francisco was found to serve the highest number of clients with schizophrenia and the greatest percentage who committed crimes of violence. **Nevertheless, the Behavioral Health Court showed a 39% reduction in re-arrests, leading all four cities.** The study and the court were nationally recognized in the *Los Angeles Times* in October.

## Juvenile Unit

Partnering with the courts, probation, and the Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice, we helped develop the first juvenile reentry court in the nation for the highest risk youth in foster care—now the model for other jurisdictions. Juvenile public defenders helped defeat proposed state legislation that would have eliminated diversion for youth. Alongside the immigrant rights community, we worked to pass the Due Process Sanctuary Ordinance, providing better legal protection for our undocumented clients.

- 0** Youth sent to state incarceration facilities or transferred to adult criminal court
- 205+** Youth diverted from formal juvenile probation
- 80%** Social work recommendations adopted by the juvenile courts
- 100%** Success rate in preventing school expulsion and securing services for special education students
- 427** Interviews conducted by investigators
- 190** Subpoenas served by investigators
- 25** Juvenile delinquency cases dismissed due to investigations

Reentry Social Worker Inna Verdiyana



Juvenile Social Worker DuShan Henderson

## Specialty Courts & Reentry

A grant from the U.S. Department of Justice funded one full-time social worker for three years, bringing the number of reentry social workers to an all-time high of five. As a result, 2010 was a record year for the number of clients who were sent to treatment instead of state prison.

### People served by Clean Slate:



- 387** Felony cases dismissed through Drug Court, Drug Diversion and Prop 36
- 3,500** Individuals served by Clean Slate
- 1,200** Criminal arrests and convictions cleared through Clean Slate
- 300+** Clients assessed by a social worker and referred to residential and outpatient programs, shelters and other social services



BMAGIC Director Yvette Robles and  
Research and Program Coordinator Julia Weisner

## Training

**42** In-house workshop and lectures

Sample of lecture topics: Using social networking websites in investigations, cell phone forensics, reversing homicide convictions based on juror misconduct, collateral housing consequences of criminal convictions, understanding mental health experts and the tests they use.



Office Manager Angela Auyong and Bookkeeper Yuko Osaka.

## Community Building Programs

### Mo'MAGIC

- 1,500** Backpacks given away
- 2,000+** Children served outside of giveaway
- 50** Community partners
- 1,200** Youth participating in events
- 150** Hours of literacy instruction
- 200** Hours of art activities
- 100** Hours of science activities
- 20** Community events

### BMAGIC

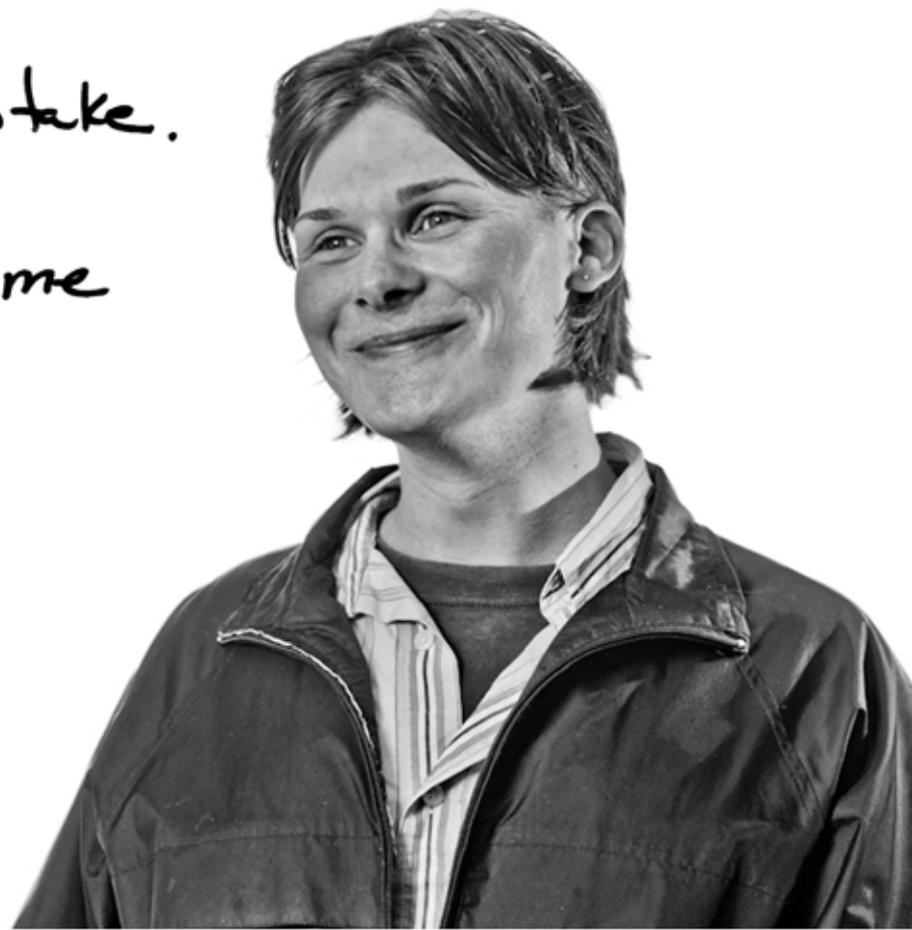
- 6,150** Backpacks given away
- 6,825** Total youth served
- 500** Participants in Literacy is Freedom event
- 175** Youth attending Winter Ball
- 57** Partners in Bayview-Hunters Point, including community organizations, schools, activists, corporations, artists, faith based organizations, and city agencies

### Clerical

- 100,000** Front desk telephone calls
- 30,000** New criminal files created
- 1,800** Drug case files pulled during crime lab scandal
- 4,970** Pages of transcripts completed

I am more than my mistake.

My Public Defender helped me  
move on with my life.



JUSTICE DOESN'T END AT THE  
COURTROOM.

CONNECT SOMEONE WITH THE  
RIGHT SERVICES AND THEY CAN SHINE!

Former client Andrea (top) works as a community volunteer after her public defender, Tal Klement of the Felony Unit, cleared her criminal record.

# JULY 2011

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Independence  
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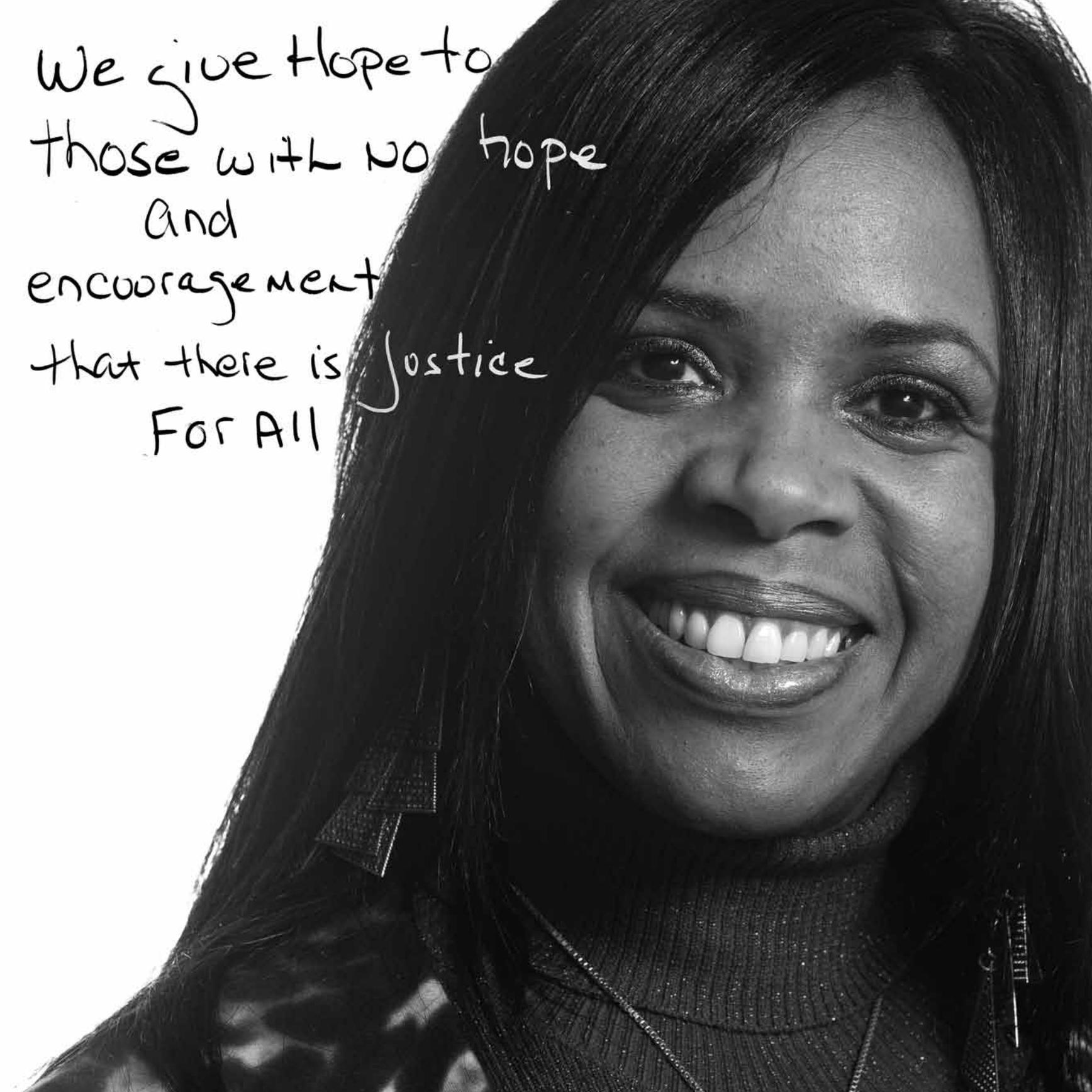
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We give hope to  
those with no hope  
and  
encouragement  
that there is justice  
For All



Senior Legal Process Clerk Angela Mathews will celebrate her 35th year with the Public Defender's Office August 17. During the crime lab scandal, clerks pulled 1,800 files in addition to their regular duties.

# AUGUST 2011

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The Magic program  
connects our community



Tina Collins and daughters Myisha, Aaliyah and Starr are among the 9,000 San Franciscans who participated in art, literacy, community-building and school preparedness activities provided in 2010 by the Mo'MAGIC and BMAGIC programs.

# SEPTEMBER 2011

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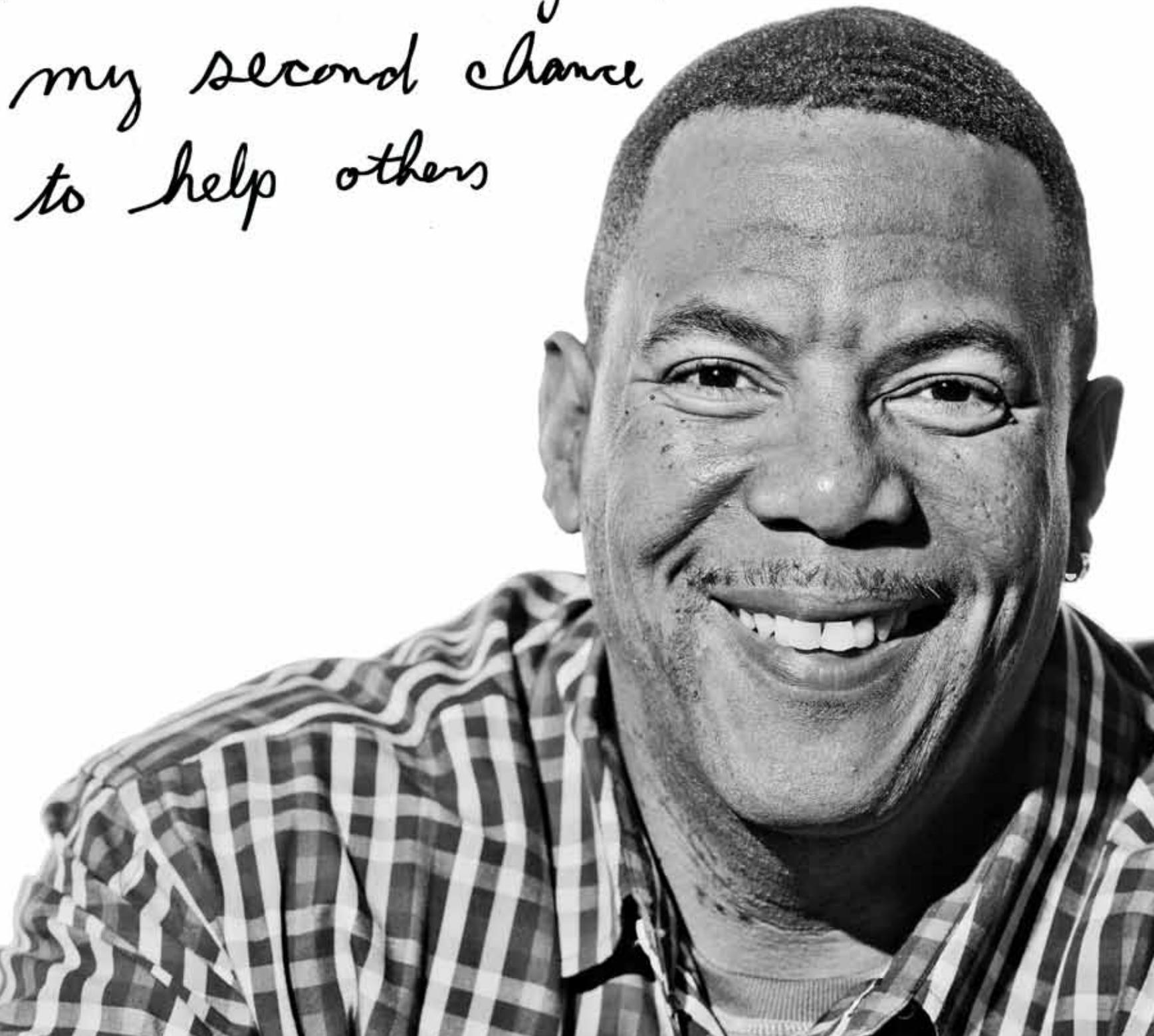
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I am using  
my second chance  
to help others



Former client Tony helps the city's homeless through his job managing a community center. He completed treatment with the help of Deputy Public Defender Danielle Harris of the Felony Unit and Social Worker Shannon Bennett.

# OCTOBER 2011

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Indigenous  
People's Day

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A black and white portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark jacket and a beaded necklace. She has a neutral expression. Overlaid on the bottom left of the image is handwritten text in white ink.

My goal  
is to prevent  
Criminalization of  
The mentally ill.

Kara Chien is manager of the Mental Health Unit, which conducted more than 2,000 hearings on behalf of its clients in 2010.

# NOVEMBER 2011

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Election Day

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Veteran's Day

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Thanksgiving Day

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I BELIEVE AMAZING  
THINGS ARE IN  
STORE FOR  
ME



After a lifetime of addiction and homelessness, Brenda is sober and looking forward to the future. She completed treatment with the help of Social Worker Inna Verdiyan. More than 300 clients entered treatment with the help of social workers in 2010.

# DECEMBER 2011

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Christmas

# 90th Anniversary: 1921-2011



**San Francisco Public Defender's Office**  
**555 7th St., San Francisco, California**  
**[sfpublicdefender.org](http://sfpublicdefender.org)**