

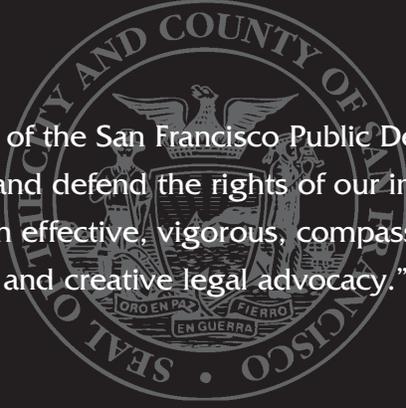
San Francisco Public Defender's Office

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# FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

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Annual Report • 2003

The seal of the City and County of San Francisco is centered in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield is supported by two figures, one holding a scale and the other a sword. Below the shield is a banner with the motto "ORO EN PACE FIERRO EN GUERRA". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO" and "SEAL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO".

“The mission of the San Francisco Public Defender’s office is to protect and defend the rights of our indigent clients through effective, vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy.”

**A**s Public Defender for the City and County of San Francisco, it is my great honor to share with you the highlights of the office's achievements during 2003. Now in our 82nd year, the office has established itself as a national leader in providing the highest quality legal representation. In addition, we have implemented various support programs to help clients avoid re-entering the criminal and juvenile justice systems in the future.

I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the past year. First and foremost, the office serves the public by ensuring that the sacred promise of "liberty and justice for all" extends to everyone, and not just to those who can afford to hire a private lawyer. Last year we represented 23,000 people in misdemeanor, felony, juvenile, and mental health proceedings. Each case requires the caring and individualized attention of a well-trained, prepared and effective attorney who is dedicated to working on the client's behalf. Each case must be carefully investigated and researched. If the case proceeds to trial, the attorney must be thoroughly prepared to defend the case.

Second, we provide our attorneys and staff with the best professional development and training. Through our training programs, individual mentoring and performance evaluations, we ensure that our attorneys and staff continue to provide our clients and their families with the best legal representation possible.

Third, we established a number of innovative and exciting programs that help clients turn their lives around. Many of our clients struggle daily with tremendous challenges such as homelessness, lack of education, unemployment, mental illness and drug addiction. Programs such as Drug Court and Educational Court provide people with a means to seek treatment and education in lieu of prison. Our Clean Slate program helps rehabilitated clients clear their records of criminal convictions so they can find work and become productive citizens.

Fourth, we have worked with other criminal justice agencies to improve the criminal and juvenile justice system. Earlier this year, we worked with the Trial Courts, the District Attorney, and other criminal justice agencies to create the City's first consolidated Drug Court. Now, a single judge rules on cases that were previously spread between Drug Court and Educational Court, as well as those cases eligible for Proposition 36. We have also helped to establish the City's first Behavioral Health Court, which provides specialized services to clients suffering from mental illness. Along with the Mayor's Office, the Controller's City Projects team and the Bar Association of San Francisco, we have spearheaded key changes to the Conflicts Panel, which will bring greater accountability to the process of appointing attorneys for clients when the Public Defender cannot represent them due to conflicts of interest. These measures will also save the City nearly \$1 million each year.

Finally, we have increased public awareness of issues affecting criminal and juvenile justice. Through our Equal Justice Campaign and Speaker's Bureau, we continue to educate the larger Bay Area community about the workings of the courts and criminal and juvenile justice systems.



On behalf of the Public Defender's Office, I give you our commitment that we will continue to work tirelessly to help those who otherwise would have no hope for justice. Only by having a strong and vibrant Public Defender's office are the scales of justice balanced. We ask for your help and support in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeff Adachi". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jeff Adachi  
Public Defender

**R**eason and reflection require us to recognize that in our adversary system of criminal justice, any person haled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured of a fair trial unless counsel is provided for him. This seems to us to be an obvious truth. Governments spend vast sums of money to establish machinery to try defendants accused of crime. From the very beginning, our constitutions and laws have laid great emphasis on safeguards designed to assure fair trials before impartial tribunals. This noble ideal cannot be realized if the poor man charged with a crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer to assist him.

– Justice Hugo Black,  
Gideon vs. Wainwright

2003 marked the 40th Anniversary of Gideon vs. Wainwright, the Supreme Court decision which held that the U.S. Constitution requires the appointment of a lawyer at state's expense for a person accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer.

At the Hall of Justice, and at the Youth Guidance Center, the Public Defender's staff of 90 attorneys and 46 investigators, paralegals, social workers, and clerks have the Herculean

task of meeting Gideon's promise of equal justice to over 23,000 people who come to the Public Defender for legal representation each year.

For much of its 82-year history, the San Francisco Public Defender's office has been severely understaffed, receiving only a small fraction of the funding made available to police and prosecutors. This inequity resulted in overwhelming caseloads that often prevented deputy public defenders from doing their best work.

In January 2003, at the request of the Public Defender, the Controller conducted a four-month study of the office and issued a series of recommendations to increase staffing and improve its operations. These "benchmarks for justice" now form the foundation of the Public Defender's three-year strategic plan. In July 2003, in response to the Controller's report, the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors agreed to provide additional staff and resources to the Public Defender's office.



Deputy Public Defender Will Maas meets with a client at the San Francisco County Jail.

## Setting Caseload Standards and Reducing Attorney Caseload:

In 2001 and 2002, staff shortages brought attorneys' caseloads to overwhelming and unmanageable numbers. Felony, misdemeanor and juvenile attorneys were handling three times as many cases as their counterparts in comparable public defender offices. These caseloads far exceeded the workload standards set forth by the American Bar Association. In 2003, the office established maximum annual caseload standards:

- Felony attorneys – 150 cases
- Juvenile attorneys – 200 cases
- Misdemeanor attorneys – 250 cases
- Mental Health attorneys – 250 cases



Deputy Public Defender Phoenix Streets argues a case before a jury.

### Implementation of Caseweighting Standards:

The Public Defender has adopted a case-weighting system where cases are assigned and distributed based on the seriousness of the charges, complexity of the case, and experience level of the attorney. Managers use the case-weighting system to control the attorneys' workloads and ensure that all cases receive the time and attention they need.

### Increase Attorney Support Staff:

The Controller's 2003 study found that the office did not have sufficient investigative, paralegal, and support staff to assist the attorneys. This resulted in attorneys not having sufficient time to work on their cases. In October 2003, additional paralegals and investigators were added to the staff.

## Compliance with the Manual of Policy and Procedures:

The Public Defender has developed a comprehensive Manual of Policy and Procedures which sets forth the standard of representation that is expected and required of all staff.

### Develop, Design and Launch a New Information-Technology System:

In 2003, the Public Defender's office worked with the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services to design and develop a new state-of-the-art information-technology system to track court information and automate office work. The new system will also allow the staff to access case statistics and produce regular reports on individual attorney workload, overall office workload, and fluctuations in the type of cases assigned to each attorney.

### Reduce the Costs of Appointing Private Counsel by Limiting Cases Referred to Outside Counsel:

Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, the Public Defender must declare a conflict of interest and cannot represent a person. In such a situation, the case is assigned to a private lawyer appointed from a panel administered by the San Francisco Bar Association. In 2003, the Public Defender's office enacted new reporting mechanisms to better regulate this process, resulting in substantial savings to the City.



Deputy Public Defender Danielle Harris in court.

**F**ighting for justice is a daily reality at the Hall of Justice. Unlike the TV version of justice in which lawyers and judges focus on one case at a time, more than one thousand cases are heard each week in the San Francisco courts. Deputy Public Defenders must ensure that each client's case receives the care and attention it deserves.



Deputy Public Defender Phong Wang discusses a case with Prosecutor Sharon Reardon.

A Deputy Public Defender's typical day starts out in the holding cell, interviewing dozens of persons who have recently been arrested. Whether the crime charged is driving under the influence, battery or homicide, each individual must be

thoroughly interviewed so that their release status can be argued before the judge and a plea entered. Each case must be meticulously reviewed and investigated by the attorney, and legal motions must be researched, written and filed. Any constitutional issues must be presented in court and thoroughly litigated.

The attorney must work to resolve each case for a result that is just. Even if the case is eventually dismissed or negotiated with a guilty plea, the defender must still conduct a full investigation of the facts.

If the case proceeds to a jury trial, the defender must interview and subpoena witnesses, prepare for jury selection, evidentiary hearings, opening statements, direct and cross-examination and final argument. Trying a case is a tremendous challenge requiring the attorney to combine all of his or her legal education, experience, wit, skill and common sense to meet the formidable resources of the state.

The office's felony unit handled 10,363 cases in 2003 and tried a total of 48 jury trials. The felony probation violation unit handled 247 of the 1,747 probation violations assigned to the office. The office's misdemeanor unit, comprised of 16 lawyers, handled a total of 12,822 cases in 2003, and tried a total of 86 jury trials.



Deputy Public Defenders Kathy Asada and Aleem Raja prepare for court.

### "The right to be free of illegal search and seizures ..." Fourth Amendment

*Deshawn was arrested for trespassing, searched by a police officer and charged with possession of narcotics. The officer testified that there were posted signs throughout the area that said, "no trespassing." After the public defender investigator showed the judge photographs disproving the officer's testimony, the judge ruled that the police officer's search of Deshawn was illegal.*



Deputy Public Defender Stephen Rosen in court.

### "The right to testify on my own behalf ..." Fifth Amendment

*Peter had one strike against him. Already on probation, Peter was again charged with assault. Peter claimed he was innocent, but told his defender that he was afraid no one would believe him. The defender investigated Peter's case, and found he was telling the truth. Peter turned down a plea bargain, and testified at trial. Withstanding two days of rigorous cross-examination by the prosecutor, Peter was acquitted.*

### "The right to a jury trial ... " Sixth Amendment

*Enrique was charged with first degree murder. During an argument, Enrique had allegedly struck a man. The man fell to the ground and died of a head injury. Enrique's defender and investigator tracked down dozens of witnesses and presented extensive forensic evidence at trial which proved that the cause of death was consistent with an accident, not an intentional killing. Enrique's case was reduced to a*

*voluntary manslaughter at the preliminary hearing, and at trial, Enrique was found not guilty of manslaughter.*



Deputy Public Defender Artricia Moore presents her case to the judge.

### Representing the Mentally Ill

The Mental Health unit consists of two attorneys and two investigators. In 2003, they represented some 3,500 clients with mental health disabilities in both civil and criminal proceedings.

The role of the mental health attorney is to give voice to the client, to preserve the client's choice of treatment, and to give recourse to rights provided by law. Typically, the goal in such cases is to decriminalize mentally ill clients and successfully transition them from jail to a mental health treatment program. The unit also represents clients who have been found "not guilty by reason of insanity" in post-trial proceedings.

### Behavioral Health Court

In January 2003, the San Francisco Superior Court, in collaboration with the Public Defender, District Attorney and Department of Public Health, instituted the Behavioral Health Court. The Behavioral Health Court increases

effective cooperation between the mental health treatment system and the criminal justice system. Participants meet with caseworkers, social workers or psychologists, and voluntarily agree to a treatment plan which may include residential treatment, housing and medication. Upon successful completion, their sentences may be reduced, or their cases dismissed. The Court results in improved access to public mental health treatment services and reduced recidivism.

*Anna, a 63-year old woman who suffers from schizophrenia, was arrested for violating a stay away order from her family home. While in custody, Anna was referred to the Behavioral Health Court. She was placed in a program specializing in residential mental health treatment for senior citizens and successfully completed her treatment plan, which included counseling and case management. Several months later, she was reunited with her family and returned home. Anna's felony charges were reduced to misdemeanors.*

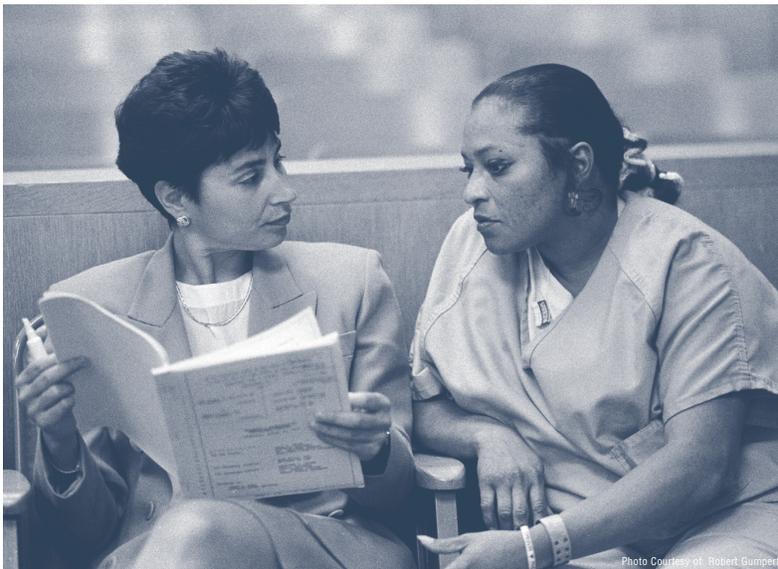


Photo Courtesy of: Christine Jegan

Deputy Public Defender Jennifer Johnson in Behavioral Health Court.

The juvenile justice system seeks to rehabilitate youthful offenders and prevent their return to jail. To this end, the Public Defender's juvenile office has adopted a holistic approach, which includes social work, educational advocacy, mental health and placement services for youth who have to be removed from their homes. The Public Defender's office also collaborates with community agencies that serve the City's youth. In 2003, the Public Defender successfully represented 1,483 young people who were charged in delinquency proceedings.

*Born and raised in a public housing project, Jason grew up in a neighborhood where drive-by shootings, drug sales and turf wars were a common occurrence. At 17, Jason found himself facing a life sentence for attempted murder. Jason's deputy public defender led a team comprised of the public defender social worker, investigator, a forensic psychologist and California Youth Authority expert. Together, they determined that Jason suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder when he was a victim of a random shooting two years earlier. After a complete assessment, coupled with community support, the District Attorney agreed not to charge Jason as an adult, and allowed Jason to seek the rehabilitation services of the juvenile justice system.*



Chief Attorney Teresa Caffese discusses a case in court with her client.

*Kyle, a 15-year old boy, was born in prison. Because his mother was addicted to drugs, Kyle was raised by his aunt and uncle. Kyle was placed on juvenile probation and was charged with violating his probation for fighting in school. Kyle's deputy public defender determined that Kyle was suffering from a serious learning disability, and needed one-on-one attention and a visual learning plan. The judge agreed not to violate Kyle's probation. Kyle is now succeeding in school.*

### Helping Exploited Girls and Victims of Sexual Abuse/Assault

In 2003, the Public Defender received grants from the San Francisco Foundation and the VanLobenSels-RembeRock Foundation to fund a position for a social worker to work with young girls who are victims of physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse. The social worker will develop treatment plans that provide wrap-around services that encompass the girl's familial, educational, social, and economic needs, and also will provide counseling in areas such as teen pregnancy and AIDS. The social worker will manage and monitor the treatment plans, and provide follow-up reports to the court.

### Providing Educational Opportunities for Youth

Learning disabilities and unmet educational needs often contribute to a youth's entry into the juvenile justice system. The Public Defender's Placement & Education unit was created to address these needs by working with the School District to develop an education plan which includes counseling, tutoring, or job-training. The unit also investigates and monitors the treatment of clients in out-of-home placements, and reduces the time youth spend in detention.

### The SQUIRES Program

The Public Defender's office participates in the SQUIRES (San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experience and Studies) program, which allows at-risk youth to experience the reality of crime and punishment as juveniles meet one-on-one with prisoners at San Quentin prison.

*From time to time I receive letters from kids telling me how the SQUIRES program has affected their thinking about life. I feel a sense of accomplishment when I know something that I've shared in the workshops has made a difference in the kids' lives. Being incarcerated at a young age, and working with troubled youth made me realize how much we need to help each other in our society. The youth especially need our help, because they are our future.*

– SQUIRES Member

## Drug Court, Proposition 36 and Substance Abuse Treatment

Many people find themselves involved in the criminal justice system because they are addicted to drugs or alcohol. In 2003, almost 1,000 persons participated in Drug Court, a program established in 1995 that assists alcohol and drug dependent persons in addressing their addiction through court monitored treatment. Utilizing a team approach involving legal, substance abuse and health care professionals, Drug Court offers residential treatment, day treatment or outpatient treatment, meetings with drug counselors, group counseling, acupuncture, urine testing, and regular trips to court so the judge can monitor their progress. Clients who successfully complete this rigorous program have their criminal charges dismissed.

Another alternative is the voter-mandated Proposition 36, which allows persons convicted of drug possession charges to enter a treatment program instead of a jail or prison. In 2003, the office represented 326 clients in these proceedings. This program is funded from a state grant administered by the Department of Public Health.

The Public Defender also is assisted by a Substance Abuse Treatment specialist, who acts as a liaison between the Public Defender, community treatment agencies, and the courts, and helps locate residential treatment programs for clients.

*"Freedom comes with a price. I remember 18 months ago when I was sitting in jail with so much despair, thinking one day I could have a life again. There's no words that can express the level of gratitude I feel towards Drug Court, from rescuing me from the bondage of addiction."*

– Ms. G. , 2003 Drug Court Graduate



Deputy Public Defender Craig Peters consults with his client.

*"When I entered this program 15 months ago, for once in my life I wanted to do something for myself. I was sick and tired of being stuck on the street with no place to go, with no hope. Drug Court gave me the strength, the support and the prayers to find that hope, that willingness to continue my life."*

– Mr. H., 2003 Drug Court Graduate

## Public Defender Training Programs

The Public Defender's office has established a training program to ensure that its lawyers and staff receive ongoing training and are constantly able to improve their skills. In the past year, the Training Director organized eight orientation programs for newly hired lawyers, monthly seminars on evidence, case conferences, and mock jury selection. The office has also hosted over 40 in-house lectures and demonstrations by trial lawyers and experts who generously donated their time and expertise. The office invites members of the private bar to attend many of the trainings. The office received four scholarships to send felony lawyers to an intensive two-week trial training at the National Criminal Defense College.



Deputy Public Defender Rebecca Young leads a training session.

## Research Unit

The Research Unit provides research, writing, appellate support and assistance to attorneys and maintains the law library. The unit performs legal research and writing, writes



Deputy Public Defender Chris Hite reviews a case file with clerk Thelma-Flores Arroyo.

motions (requests for court action), handles pre-trial writs and appeals. The Research Unit also contributes materials to in-office training programs and presents workshops on legal writing, research and new laws.

## Bail Unit

The bail unit was initiated in 2003 as part of Sheriff Michael Hennessey's County Jail Population Reduction Plan. The bail unit conducts in-depth interviews with the client and family members and develops a release plan, which is presented to the court. In 2003, the unit brought 150 motions in felony cases, and obtained release in 63% of the cases, saving the City \$1 million in incarceration costs.

## Investigation Unit

The Investigation Unit researches the facts of a case. Investigators visit crime scenes, take photos of injuries, gather important documents and records, track down and interview witnesses, and subpoena them to appear in court. In 2003, the unit responded to 1,537 attorney requests, served 1,007 subpoenas, and conducted 2,365 interviews.



Manager Kathy Logan meets with investigator Jennifer Jennings.

## Clerical, Word Processing & Information Technology Unit

The Clerical Unit is responsible for creating, maintaining and archiving over 30,000 client files each year. The unit files attorney motions (requests for court action), and delivers



Public Defender Sangeeta Sinha discusses a case with clerk Judy Liu and paralegal Tony Sosa.

missives to and from other criminal justice agencies, and staffs courtrooms. In 2003, the Word Processing Unit transcribed 513 witness statements. The unit's phone operators put a public face on the office, and answer thousands of telephone calls the Public

Defender's Office receives each year. The Information Technology Unit provides technical support for the office's computer and information systems.

## The Paralegal Unit

In response to the Controller's study which recommended that the office hire paralegals to reduce attorneys' workloads, 10 paralegals were hired in 2003. The paralegals obtain documents, organize trial binders, create court exhibits, review and summarize court transcripts, and assist lawyers in preparing for trial.

## Volunteer Attorney Program

For over 20 years, the office has had a "loaner" program where private firms loan associates and partners to work in the Public Defender's office, where they have the opportunity to handle a criminal caseload and try cases. The program requires a minimum four-month, full-time commitment. Attorneys are assigned to the misdemeanor unit, and handle a partial misdemeanor caseload. The attorneys receive extensive training in trial skills, evidence and courtroom protocol. In 2003, eight volunteer attorneys participated in the Volunteer Attorney Program.



Pillsbury Winthrop associate Blaine Green (c) pictured with Deputy Public Defenders (l to r) Alex Lillien, Managing Attorney Jean Amabile, Helena Kim and Christy Chandler.

*"My time as a deputy public defender through the volunteer attorney program was both intense and rewarding. I tried five jury trials. The gratitude from clients and support from co-workers has made the experience especially satisfying. I return to my firm a more skilled trial lawyer, having honed my trial skills."*

– Blaine Green, Commercial Litigator,  
Pillsbury Winthrop

## Volunteer Intern Program

The San Francisco Public Defender's Volunteer Internship Program (VIP) provides internship opportunities for law students, paralegal students, college students and volunteers who are interested in receiving hands-on experience meeting with clients, writing motions and assisting the attorneys in trial. Students apply to participate in the office's fall, spring or summer internship programs. Last year, 174 law students and volunteers from across the United States and from England, Ireland, and Germany, provided over 50,000 work hours to support the office.

*"I have volunteered at the Public Defender's office on a part-time basis for the past four years. My background as a research scientist has proved extremely helpful to the lawyers I have worked with. My greatest satisfaction is being able to help people at a critical time in their lives. I would highly recommend the experience to anyone who is interested."*

– Louise Swig,  
Public Defender Volunteer

## Speaker's Bureau

The Public Defender's office often provides speakers to groups and public events. During 2003, Public Defender Jeff Adachi and members of his staff spoke at conferences, meetings, community meetings, high school and law school campuses throughout the Bay Area. Also, Hall of Justice tours were offered to elementary, middle and high school students.



Fourth graders from Charles Drew Elementary School participate in a mock trial.

*"Thank you for the tour. I had a good time. What I liked the most was when we got to play in the courtroom. I like your office and now I know what I want to do. I want to be a lawyer. I hope we can do it again."*

– Kayla, age 9

## Equal Justice Campaign

In July 2003, the Public Defender's office began an educational campaign to celebrate the importance of equal justice and to educate the public on the role of the Public Defender. The campaign features billboards and bus shelter posters in San Francisco. The campaign is co-sponsored by the office of former Mayor Willie Brown, Jr., the Bar Association of San Francisco, and law firms and private companies that have donated money or billboard space for the campaign.



Posters and billboards publicizing defender services appeared in San Francisco neighborhoods.

**W**ith over 160,000 prisoners in 33 state prisons, California has the largest prison population in the country. Sentencing laws such as the "Three Strikes Law" — which allows a prosecutor to seek a life sentence for a person who has two prior serious felonies --- has caused this swell in the prison population, which has jumped nearly 500 percent in the past 20 years. With over 121,000 parolees statewide, it is imperative that new alternatives are developed to help ex-offenders turn their lives around when they are released from prison or county jail.

### Street-to-Work Program

In July 2003, the Public Defender began referring clients to "Street-to-Work," a new program which provides employment alternatives to incarceration for persons aged 18-30 charged with first-time, low-level drug sales offenses. Participants who successfully complete the intensive eighteen-month program have their felony convictions dismissed. In its first year, Street-to-Work admitted 53 people, trained them, and found them jobs in the social service and construction industries.

### Educational Court

Educational Court, established in 1996, is a highly successful program that provides persons charged with first-time drug sales offenses with the opportunity to complete their high school or college education. To date, over 200 individuals have successfully graduated from the program, with an 11% recidivism rate. Many have received GED and high school diplomas and continued with their higher education. In 2003, the Public Defender worked with the District Attorney and Pre-Trial Diversion to revise the program as part of the consolidated Drug Court.

*"When I first started Educational Court, I didn't take it seriously. But (the program) kept on me and wouldn't let me get away with anything. Now I have my license, my GED degree, and this case is going to be dismissed. Thank you all so much, I will never forget all that you did."*

– K.D. , age 21, graduated from Educational Court October 2, 2003

*"My son and I now have a one bedroom apartment. I am back at school to get my Registered Nursing certification and am doing really well."*

– T.T., age 24, graduated from Educational Court on July 17, 2003

### Clean Slate

The Clean Slate program helps people clear their record of past convictions and arrests. A criminal record can severely affect a person's ability to find employment as well as eligibility for student loans and government-owned housing. In 2003, 1,057 people took advantage of the office's Clean Slate program.

Clean Slate services are available without appointment every Tuesday from 9-11:00 am at 555 Seventh Street, or every Thursday, from 9-12:00 pm at the Southeast Community Facility Commission, 1800 Oakdale, in Bayview-Hunters Point. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call (415) 553-9337.

*"Just a note of thanks for your help in my efforts to have my record expunged. I now have a clear record as I work towards being a social worker. Your help was greatly appreciated."*

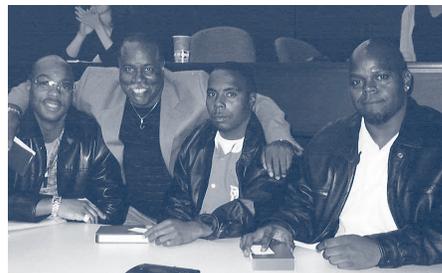
– A.J.

### The Innocence Project

The Innocence Project investigates claims of factual innocence and provides DNA testing of evidence. The Innocence Project attorney investigates new evidence, witnesses, and records that may lead to the client's exoneration, and conducts prison outreach. In 2003, the Innocence Project investigated 36 cases.

#### The Exonerated: John Tennison and Anton Goff

*In 1989, 17-year-old John Tennison and 20-year-old Anton Goff were arrested by police in connection with a homicide-gang shooting that occurred in San Francisco's Sunnysdale neighborhood. Based on the eye-witness testimonies of two teenage girls, both men were both convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Post-conviction investigation performed by the Public Defender's office revealed that another man had confessed to the crime to police and that witnesses had told police that Goff and Tennison were innocent. This evidence was withheld*



John Tennison, Anton Goff, pictured right to left with Luther Brock and Albert Johnson, who, like Goff and Tennison, were each imprisoned crimes they did not commit.

*from the defense, and was never heard by the jury. Through the efforts of lawyers from the San Francisco law firm Keker and Van Nest, Goff and Tennison were finally ordered released by a federal court in August 2003.*

## Total Cases Handled by the Public Defender's Office (2003)

Total # of Cases Handled: 22,993

### Felony Unit

Total Cases: 10,363  
 Arraignments: 4,312  
 Dismissed: 732  
 Diverted: 503  
 Cases Resolved by Guilty Plea Before Preliminary Hearing: 1,383  
 Total Guilty Pleas: 1,599  
 Number of Cases Held to Answer: 472  
 Cases Set for Trial: 516  
 Jury Trials: 48  
 Average Cases Per Attorney (Annual): 168  
 Average Caseload Per Attorney (At any given time): 56

### Type of Case

Homicides: 14  
 Sex Offenses: 56  
 Violent or Serious Felonies: 663  
 Burglary, Theft, Receiving Stolen Property: 529  
 Drug Offenses: 2,537  
 Miscellaneous: 500  
 Probation Violations: 1,747

### Misdemeanor Unit

Total Cases: 12,822  
 Arraignments: 4,824  
 Cases Dismissed: 1,708  
 Cases Diverted: 1,652  
 Cases Resolved by Guilty Plea Before Trial: 1,374  
 Cases Set for Trial: 296  
 Trials: 86  
 Average Cases Per Attorney (Annual): 301  
 Average Caseload Per Attorney (At any given time): 125

### Juvenile Unit

Total Cases: 1,483  
 Court Appearances: 2,934  
 Court Trials: 30  
 Contested Dispositions: 28  
 Fitness Hearings: 10  
 Average Cases Per Attorney (Annual): 245  
 Average Caseload Per Attorney (At any given time): 54  
 Total Educational Placements: 189  
 Total Youth Authority Commitments: 3

### Mental Health Unit:

Total Cases: 3,500

### Civil

Certification Review: 2,586  
 Conservatorship: 243  
 Renewal of Conservatorship: 536  
 Writs: 75  
 Total Civil Cases: 3,440

### Criminal

Maximum Term Extensions: 14  
 Writ for Conditional Release: 3  
 Restoration of Sanity: 5  
 Conditional Release/Outpatient Parole: 17  
 1370 Top Out: 7  
 Total Criminal Cases: 46

### Behavior Health Court:

Total Cases: 115  
 Total Number of Graduates: 20

### Drug Court

Total Cases: 1,000

### Proposition 36

Total Cases: 326

### Substance Abuse Unit

Clients evaluated: 400 clients  
 Clients placed into treatment programs: 52  
 Street-to-Work: 63

### Clean Slate:

Cases: 1,057  
 Motions: 558

### Innocence Project

Total Letters: 107  
 Referrals: 46  
 Closed Investigations: 27  
 Active Cases: 36  
 DNA Tested: 3

### Investigation Unit

Attorney Investigative Requests: 1,537  
 Subpoenas Served: 1,007  
 Interviews: 2,365

### Research Unit

Appeals: 8  
 Petitions for Writs: 23  
 Motions to Suppress Evidence: 17  
 Motions to Set Aside Information: 45  
 Legal Memoranda: 45  
 Miscellaneous Motions: 39

### Recruitment/ Volunteer Intern Program

Total Interns: 179



# Public Defender Staff

**Public Defender:** Jeff Adachi

**Chief Attorney:** Teresa Caffese

**Executive Assistant to Public Defender:** Angela Auyong

**Felony Managing Attorneys:** Steve Gayle & Marla Zamora

**Misdemeanor Managing Attorney:** Jean Amabile

**Juvenile Managing Attorney:** Patricia Lee

**Mental Health Managing Attorney:** Robert Bunker

**Research Managing Attorney:** Chris Gauger

**Director of Training:** Martin Sabelli

**Director of Investigations and Support Services:** Kathy Logan

**Director of Interns and Recruitment:** Kathy Asada

## Felony Unit:

Stephanie Adrakas	Terrence Howzell	Artricia Moore
Gabriel Bassan	Daro Inouye	Steve Olmo
Frank Brass	Katherine Isa	Craig Peters
Linda Colfax	Mark Iverson	Stephen Rosen
Henry Doering	Mark Jacobs	Mel Santos
Robert Evangelista	Jennifer Johnson	Simin Shamji
Sandy Feinland	Susan Kaplan	Kauser Siddiqui
Peter Fitzpatrick	Lisa Katz	Sangeeta Sinha
Azita Ghafourpour	Sujung Kim	Niki Solis
Greg Goldman	Susan Leff	Phoenix Streets
Carla Gomez	Jennifer Levin	Rafael Trujillo
Danielle Harris	Alex Lilien	Tyler Vu
Kleigh Hathaway	Mary Mallen	Phong Wang
Elizabeth Hilton	Kwixuan Maloof	Doug Welch
Christopher Hite	Randall Martin	Rebecca Young

## Misdemeanor Unit:

Christina Alvarez	Alisa Kim	Brian Pearlman
Christy Chandler	Helena Kim	Aleem Raja
Jonah Chew	Tal Klement	Diana Rosenstein
Kisha Cordero	Adam Lipson	Stephanie Wargo
Monica Cummins	Eric Luce	Jacque Wilson
Chris Hipps	Seith Meisels	

## Juvenile Unit:

Roger Chan	Debra Hoffmann	William Maas
Greg Feldman	Jan Lecklikner	Rebecca Marcus
Emily Goldman	Norene Lew	Stephen Zollman

## Mental Health Unit:

Kara Chien

## Research Unit:

Jennifer Cosgrove      Dorothy Bischoff

## Drug Court:

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## Proposition 36:

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“There can be no equality before the law where an experienced and skillful prosecutor, backed by the power of the state and the entire resources of the police, is matched against a poor and often friendless defendant, confined in jail, unable to understand even the simplest legal implications of the case, without the help of competent counsel, is powerless to marshal any facts to controvert them.”

– Robert Nicco, Former SF Public Defender

