



# FY 2026-27 Budget Hearings

Raymond A. Buenaventura  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

“The Public Defender’s Office ensures the protection of constitutional rights through effective and efficient legal representation, while working collaboratively to support stronger individuals, families, and communities across Monterey County.”

- PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
- DELIVER HIGH QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION
- STRENGTHEN ATTORNEY -CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS
- PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SAFETY



# CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED SERVICES

Death Penalty Cases

Felonies

Misdemeanors

Juvenile

Probate

PRCS/Parole Violation  
Prison Crimes

DUI/Drug Court

Mental Health Diversion

Litigation/New Legislation

Appeals

Conservatorships

Post Sentence Relief

Veterans Court



# CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING

Wrongful Conviction

Increased Custody Time

Increased Pretrial Population

Reduced Access to Rehab Services

Increased Deportations

Unnecessary Separation of Families

Reduced Access to Post Sentence Relief

Reduced Employee Hire & Retention

# ATTORNEY WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION

34.0 FTE

Arraignment 1.0 FTE  
Immigration 1.0 FTE

Post Sentence 1.0 FTE  
Post Conviction 1.0 FTE

Mental Health 1.5 FTE

Early Resolution 2.0 FTE  
Racial Justice 2.0 FTE

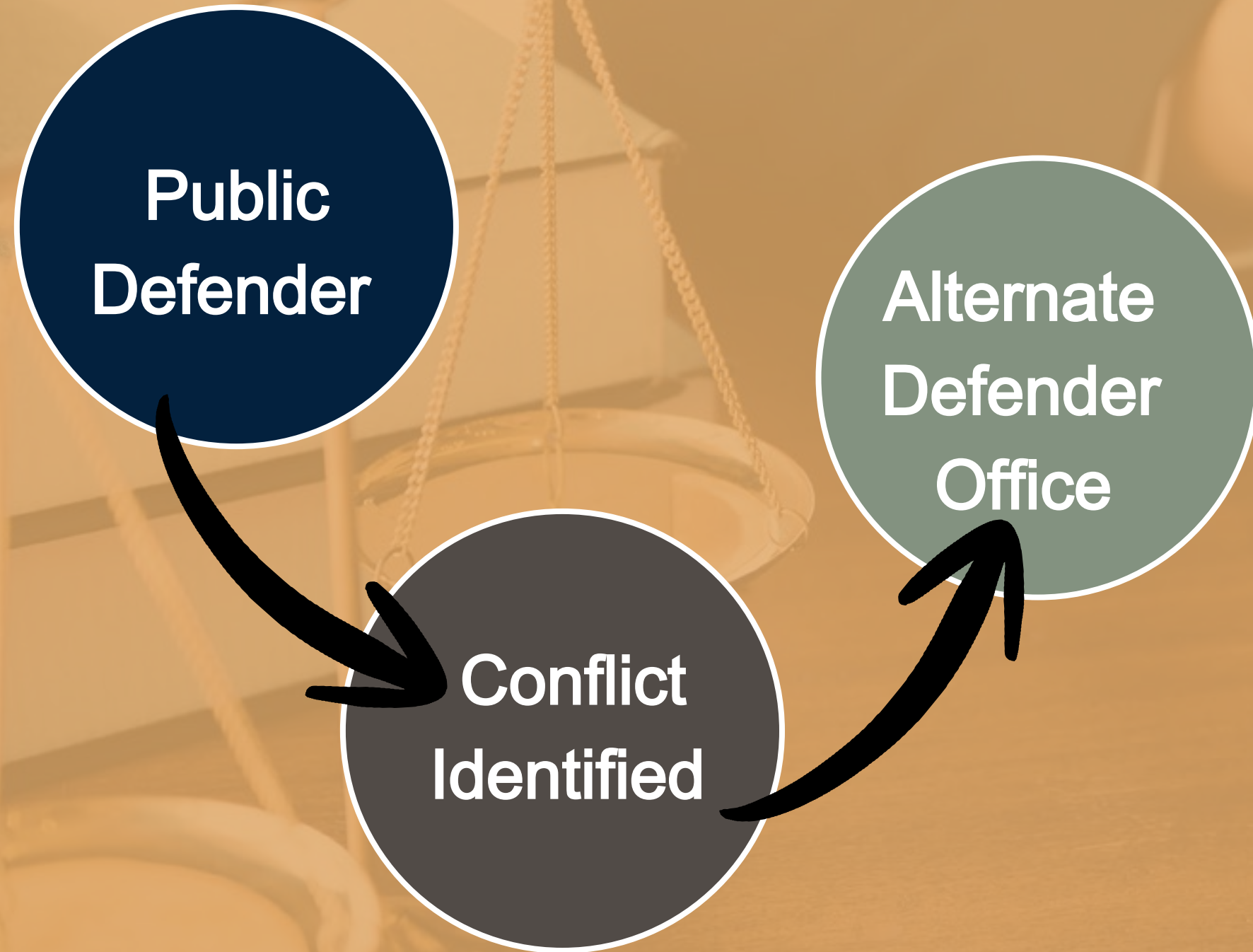
Juvenile 3.0 FTE

Misdemeanor 6.0 FTE

Felony 15.5 FTE



# INDIGENT DEFENSE FLOW

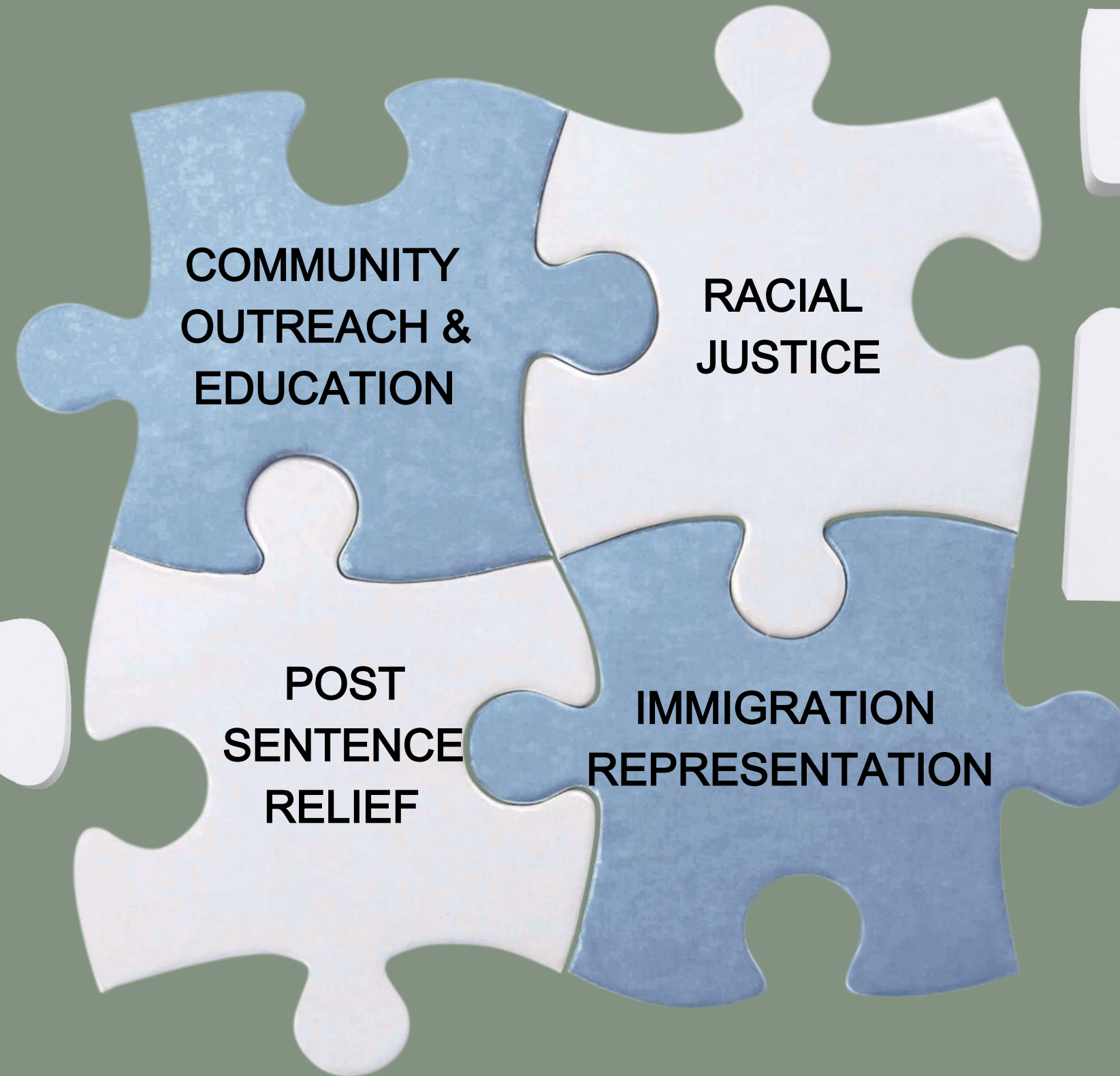


**“The Alternate Defender Office ensures that even when conflicts arise, we continue to meet the constitutional obligation to provide defense”**

# HOLISTIC DEFENSE



MEDITATION  
SECONDARY  
TRAUMA  
RESPITE



COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH &  
EDUCATION

RACIAL  
JUSTICE

POST  
SENTENCE  
RELIEF

IMMIGRATION  
REPRESENTATION



SOCIAL  
WORK



# SERVING & STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



M



C



P



D

# ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

NOT Included in Augmentations

#1

\$249,590

This request is for temporary attorneys and ancillary trial related expenses.

#2

\$250,000

This request addresses increased ICE-related contacts to ensure vulnerable clients receive proper legal advisements.

Public Defender Office

TO TAL REQUEST

\$499,590



Raymond A. Buenaventura

BuenaventuraRA@countyofmonterey.gov

(831) 755-5058



**THANK YOU!**