



# County of Monterey

**Item No.77**

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: A 26-296**

**June 23, 2026**

**Introduced:** 5/15/2026

**Current Status:** Criminal Justice - Consent

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** BoS Agreement

- a. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreements (PSA) for Alternate Defender Office (ADO) legal representation in indigent adult criminal cases, to extend the expiration date for 12 additional months to June 30, 2027 effective July 1, 2026, for a revised term of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 and to triple the not-to-exceed amount per attorney for the additional year of work, with the following revised not-to-exceed amounts per attorney: Kelly Duncan \$315,000; Jan Lindberg \$345,000; Tara Higgins \$465,000; Richard West \$465,000; and
- b. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreements (PSA) for Alternate Defender Office (ADO) legal representation in indigent juvenile criminal cases, to extend the expiration date for 12 additional months to June 30, 2027 effective July 1, 2026 for a revised term of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 and to triple the not-to-exceed amount per attorney for the additional year of work, with the following revised not-to-exceed amounts per attorney: Elliott Sanford \$315,000 and Jeffrey Gobell \$360,000.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreements (PSA) for Alternate Defender Office (ADO) legal representation in indigent adult criminal cases, to extend the expiration date for 12 additional months to June 30, 2027 effective July 1, 2026 for a revised term of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 and to triple the not-to-exceed amount per attorney for the additional year of work, with the following revised not-to-exceed amounts per attorney: Kelly Duncan \$315,000; Jan Lindberg \$345,000; Tara Higgins \$465,000; Richard West \$465,000; and
- b. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreements (PSA) for Alternate Defender Office (ADO) legal representation in indigent juvenile criminal cases, to extend the expiration date for 12 additional months to June 30, 2027, effective July 1, 2026 for a revised term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027, and to triple the not-to-exceed amount per attorney for the additional year of work, with the following revised not-to-exceed amounts per attorney: Elliott Sanford \$315,000 and Jeffrey Gobell \$360,000.

### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Monterey County fulfills its constitutional obligation to provide legal representation for indigent persons accused of criminal violations-and in certain civil proceedings (juvenile, mental health, truancy, sexually

violent predator prosecutions)-through the Alternate Defender Office (ADO) when the Public Defender has a disabling conflict of interest. The Monterey County ADO considers it essential to assign qualified trial counsel to represent indigent defendants, juvenile offenders, and other parties in cases where the Monterey County Public Defender has declared a conflict of interest, resulting in the ADO's appointment as counsel.

In order to fulfill the County's constitutional obligation and ensure provision of appropriate legal representation for indigent persons accused of criminal violations, the Public Defender recommends that the Board approve renewals and amendments to the PSA with the Law Office of Elliott Sanford, Law Office of Jeffrey Gobell, Law Office of Kelly Duncan, Law Office of Jan Lindberg, Law Office of Tara Higgins, and Law Office of Richard West for criminal defense services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27.

Language has been included in the PSA to ensure that legal services are provided in compliance with ADO policies regarding legal representation and procedures.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller have reviewed and approved as to legal form and fiscal provisions respectively. Risk Management has reviewed and approved as to County risk.

**FINANCING:**

Funding for the agreements is included in the FY 2026-27 recommended budget, Fund 001-Public Defender PUB001-2270-Budget Unit 8168-Court Assigned Counsel. Approval of the recommended actions will have no additional impact on the County General Fund.

The annual compensation for each of the agreements is funded through Fund 001-Public Defender PUB001-2270-Budget Unit 8168-Court Assigned Counsel, as follows:

Contractor	Maximum Annual Amount	Case Type
Law Office of Kelly Duncan	\$105,000	Misdemeanor
Law Office of Jan Lindberg	\$115,000	Felony (excluding life exposure); Misdemeanor
Law Office of Tara Higgins	\$155,000	Felony
Law Office of Richard West	\$155,000	Felony
Law Office of Elliott Sanford	\$105,000	Juvenile
Law Office of Jeffrey Gobell	\$120,000	Juvenile Coordinator

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The ADO strives to protect the constitutional rights of the indigent by providing them quality representation in a society free and safe from unlawful State interference by vigorously defending individual rights where the Public Defender has a conflict of interest. Acceptance of the recommendations ensures the continuation of criminal defense services to the indigent.

\_\_\_ Economic Development

- Administration
- Health and Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Prepared by: Amy Esquivel, Management Analyst II, x6054

Approved by: Ray Buenaventura, Public Defender, x5806

Attachments:

Attachment A: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Kelly B. Duncan

Attachment B: Renewal and Amendment No. 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Kelly B. Duncan

Attachment C: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Kelly B. Duncan

Attachment D: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Jan S. Lindberg

Attachment E: Renewal and Amendment No. 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Jan S. Lindberg

Attachment F: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Jan S. Lindberg

Attachment G: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Tara Higgins

Attachment H: Renewal and Amendment No. 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Tara A. Higgins

Attachment I: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Tara A. Higgins

Attachment J: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Richard H. West

Attachment K: Renewal and Amendment No 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Richard H. West

Attachment L: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Richard H. West

Attachment M: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Elliott S. Sanford

Attachment N: Renewal and Amendment No. 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Elliott S. Sanford

Attachment O: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Elliott S. Sanford

Attachment P: Renewal and Amendment No. 2 to PSA with the Law Office of Jeffrey A. Gobell

Attachment Q: Renewal and Amendment No 1 to PSA with the Law Office of Jeffrey A. Gobell

Attachment R: Professional Services Agreement with the Law Office of Jeffrey A. Gobell

Attachment S: Completed Board of Supervisors Order 25-499

Attachment T: Completed Board of Supervisors Order A-24-322