



County of Monterey

Item No.76

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: A 26-295

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 Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Roland L. Soltesz for legal representation in indigent adult criminal cases for the Alternate Defender Office (ADO), with a term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$155,000; and
- b. Approve non-standard insurance provisions in the PSA as recommended by the Public Defender.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Roland L. Soltesz for legal representation in indigent adult criminal cases for the Alternate Defender Office (ADO), with a term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$155,000; and
- b. Approve non-standard insurance provisions in the Standard Agreement as recommended by the Public Defender

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 the PSA with Roland L. Soltesz 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 agreement 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 action will have no additional impact on the County General Fund.

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

Contractor	Maximum Annual Amount	Case Type
Roland L. Soltesz	\$155,000	Felony

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

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Approved by: Ray Buenaventura, Public Defender, x5806

Attachments: Attachment A: Professional Services Agreement with Roland L. Soltesz